

New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980 • JUNE 1999



"Dollar Day" on Mission Street, 1957

Loft battle heads for another "Mother of all Hearings"

Bierman legislation to ban all new live/work construction sets off a new fight over development and housing

by Judy West

Unsatisfied with the sweeping action taken by the Planning Commission to limit future live/work projects in most of our industrial areas, Supervisor Sue Bierman introduced two pieces of legislation May 17 designed to impose a full "moratorium" on all pending live/work projects everywhere in the City. The planning Commission the week before had imposed Interim Zoning Controls which prohibit new housing (live/work & residential) throughout broad new Industrial Protection Zones. Bierman's proposals differ in that they cover the entire City and affect only live/work projects, while the Planning Commission controls stop all forms of housing but only in specified industrial areas. Mary Gallagher, a senior staff member with the Planning Dept., confirmed that the City Charter limits the Board of Supervisor's ability to stop permits or change zoning without notice or public hearings. Furthermore, if the issue is scheduled to be heard by June 22 (mark

this date) and approved, the first piece of the moratorium could only apply to applications filed after April 22 (60 days prior). This is the same day the Planning Commission's new controls also commence, and would have no more effect on the 1500 applications in the pipeline than the Planning Department's controls.

So what is all the noise in the press about? Miriam Strombler with the City Attorney's office said that the second part of the proposed legislation, new Zoning Controls to prohibit any live/work anywhere in the City for 6 months, could be made retroactive to stop all permits not yet approved, regardless of when they were filed. But such action requires approval of both the Board and the Mayor and would, needless to say, take some discussion and time.

When Bierman's office was asked about the confusion regarding pipeline projects, staff responded "We relied on [loft opponent & attorney] Sue Hester for

Continued on page 4

Mission Red Cross gets the boot

A booming economy is not necessarily good news for everybody, such as storefront community service organizations trying to survive in a red-hot commercial real estate market. Case in point the Mission Service Center of the American Red Cross, the oldest facility of its kind in the country, which will close its doors on June 7 after failing to negotiate a lease renewal at its Valencia and 19th Street location. The Mission Service Center will relocate, at least for the time being, to the Bay Area Chapter headquarters offices at Mission and Second Streets. Red Cross officials are hoping other Mission based community operations will come to its aid in finding a new home in the Mission District.

The Bay Area Chapter has pledged continued support for the immediate, humanitarian needs of Mission residents from the new location. "We are committed to providing quality, timely service to our

Mission District neighbors," said Harold Brooks, American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter chief executive officer. The American Red Cross has had an office in the Mission since 1971, serving more than 60,000 people.

The Mission Service Center provides extensive programs, services and activities. Approximately 35 Mission residents are seen daily on a walk in basis. Hundreds of others participate in evening and weekend bilingual programs that provide disaster-preparedness information, health and safety training, ESL and arts and crafts classes.

"The Mission office has not only served as a platform for our community services, but the center has allowed the community to help victims of disasters like the Mexican earthquakes and Hurricane Mitch," said Jesse Valencia, Mission center manager.

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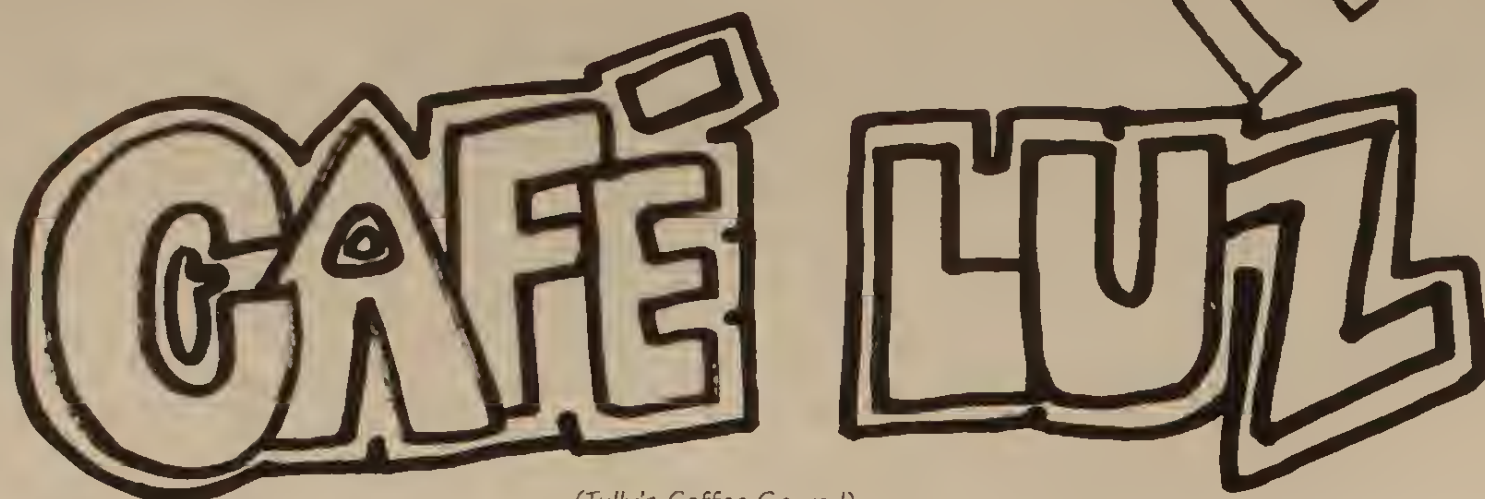
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Walter Lister: a long life of baseball

95 year-old ex-pitcher knows the history of the game firsthand

by Ed Olmstead

As construction work continues on the new Giants' baseball stadium, much is being said and written about the city's baseball past. Probably no one has a better perspective on this subject than Mr. Walter Lister, age 95. He played over 40 years of semi-pro and professional baseball, in and around San Francisco.

Lister first gained notice as a pitcher while attending Humboldt Evening High School at the Mission High School Campus. By age 19, in 1923, he was playing semi-pro "B" ball. He soon advanced to 'Double A' ball and played continuously in local leagues until he was 47 (when he was then the oldest active player in California). In the last game he pitched that year, he threw a 2 hitter, struck out 14 and won a championship. He played long enough that for a while he and his son, Walter Jr. pitched for the same team. He continued to pitch in old timers games, against the likes of Joe DiMaggio, until 1962 when he was 59.

Lister was born on October 9th, 1903, on Steiner Street. Three years later, he and his family were forced to move when they lost their apartment to the 1906 earthquake and fire. For six months they found lodging on Vermont St. in the Mission District, then they moved on to a permanent residence in Visitation Valley. Lister's father, Michael, worked as the chief smelter at the Union Iron Works while his mother, Barbara, raised him and his three brothers.

At age 22 Walter married Valentina Bertucelli, and they had two children, Barbara and Walter Junior. In 1927 they bought a house near Silver Ave. where Walter has lived for 72 years.

Lister won somewhere between 900 and 1,000 ball games in the course of 1,200 appearances. He averaged 14 strikeouts a game, and once won 29 games in a row. One scout for the LA Dodgers, Dick Murray, compared his fastball favorably to that of the great Sandy Kauffax for its speed and accuracy, adding, "He'd challenge the hitter. Today he'd be worth a bundle."

According to Lister, "I'd get into about 35 to 40 ball games a year. Sometimes I'd even pitch a double header, just to be in the ball game."

In 1926 he was invited to the San Francisco Seals training camp, but as a sports columnist wrote at the time, there was a surplus of, "flingers," (pitchers). So while Walter pitched well against the Seals starters, and had very good results, he was cut. It is worth noting that on the same day, the Seals also cut Lloyd Waner, who is now in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Lister truly knows the history of San Francisco baseball first hand. He played semi-pro ball at Recreation Park, located at 15th St. and Valencia. This was the city's main ballpark from 1907 to 1931 and seated 16,500. "It was a real cracker box, with the right field fence only 235 feet from home plate," he told me. To compensate for this, a very high wall was put up in right field.

Ruth and Gehrig on Valencia

Once, says Walter, Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig came through town on a West Coast tour. Babe hit a 500-ft. home run. It left the Valencia St. stadium, crossed Guerrero St. and hit a church at 14th and Guerrero. He also recalls on a later occasion when Ruth and Gehrig both played at Seals Stadium, where they held a hitting

derby, and people flocked there to see it.

Baseball was very big back then. Lister recalls that every Sunday, there were over 100 semi-pro baseball games played in San Francisco and around Northern California. "It kept a lot of kids busy and out of trouble."

Seals Stadium opened in 1931 at 16th St. and Bryant. Walter pitched many winter and summer league games there. "When we played at Seals Stadium we'd get 3 or 4 thousand people. That was the best ballpark in the country. That was a beautiful park. At old Seals Stadium, you had to hit the ball a mile to get it out of the park, 365 ft. to left, 424 ft. to center and 385 ft. to right. Then they made the field a little bit smaller later on, to get more people in there and allow for more home runs. But the first home run ever hit at Seals Stadium was by Red Wingo. He hit it over the 385 ft. fence," says Lister. "Joe Brovio, Ted Lyons and Babe Hermann were the only ones ever to hit the ball over the 425 ft. mark at Seals Stadium."

Back then, one of the real pleasures for the fans was when there would be a double header between the SF Seals and the Oakland Oaks. One game would be in the Mission District, the other in Oakland. "That was great. You took your streetcar, then a ferryboat, and then you'd go into the park. That was a whole day."

He never quit his day job

While Walter did play baseball for decades, and made some good money along the way, his day job was working as a machinist at the American Can Company (now home of Theatre Artaud). Eventually he worked his way up to foreman, overseeing 485 employees.

In 1994, Theatre Artaud put on its dance production, "Steel Shadows", which was a piece inspired by the building's former factory and its workers. Walter acted as a consultant and provided them with much of the material and ideas that the dance numbers drew upon. He was very pleased with the resulting production, and 5 years later still clearly remembers the names of everyone he worked with.

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Pitcher, Walter Lister in 1938

Walter Lister has a dry wit and an astonishing memory for details. And he still keeps quite active. He was the guest of honor at a recent awards dinner for the San Francisco Old Timers Baseball Club and received their "Man of the Year" award. This is a society of former ball players that made Lister a charter member in 1941... (think about it). He still goes to the Old Timers Club meetings every month as well as to monthly meetings of the Marino Pieretti club (named for a former ball player) which has a strong membership, and raises funds for the Hanna Boys Center.

Lister's son and daughter both live in the area, and he has an array of grand and great grand children. And he still loves baseball.

"I love the game that's all. It was...I can't hardly explain it, because everyone was so good on the diamond. I never remember anybody going all out fight-

ing...it was just a lot of camaraderie. And after the ball game everybody was friends, but during the ballgame you went all out. You went out there to win and beat the opposing team. And that was the only way to play the game."

"...But it was all...it's all more like a dream now than anything else. Of all the people you meet, and the fans who were in the stands. The fans back then understood the game like it was meant to be taken."

Lister has seen a tremendous amount of change, from the days when he used to deliver newspapers to a gypsy camp located where the Cow Palace is now; and used to play ball with other kids out in dairy pastures where Candlestick Park now stands. He notes, "We could talk about the old times forever. But times change. About every decade something changes in sports and in life too. And that's how it's been all the way down the line".

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Muni accidents follow a suspicious pattern

Search for answers in recent accidents hampered by official spin doctoring

By Esther Rosenfeld

Rebecca Kresse, a twenty-three year old cyclist at 24th and Valencia in September '98. Jane O'Connell, a seventy-one year old receptionist crossing the street at 21st and Mission in April of this year. Justino Baa, a twenty-eight year old pedestrian at 2nd and King streets on May 15, 1999. What do these people have in common? All were tragically struck by a Muni bus or train. The first two died from their massive injuries, the third is paralyzed.

In all three cases, Muni has denied responsibility, claiming the victims were crossing the streets unlawfully or in an unsafe manner. Yet eyewitness reports contradict Muni's claims, and several other factors suggest driver irresponsibility and a closed system that protects its own. Is there something rotten in the state of Muni?

On September 1, 1998, Mission resident Kresse was biking eastbound on 24th street. She was about to cross Valencia when Muni bus #48 roared into her from behind, knocking her to the ground. She died shortly thereafter.

Eyewitness accounts related that Rebecca was well ahead of the bus, and that the bus honked at her. According to the police report for the incident, six different witnesses reported that the bus was speeding when it struck the cyclist, presumably to make the light.

Eyewitness Karim Salgado looked up after the honking bus caught her attention. "She had nowhere to go... After he honked at her, I saw her wave at him, like 'O.K., O.K.' She wasn't trying to make a left turn - she just had nowhere to go," Salgado said, adding that the street was too narrow because of parked cars. After a brief investigation, Muni's version was that the accident was unavoidable and that the driver had "done all he could under the circumstances" (see "Witnesses Dispute Muni's Version of Cyclist's Death," *New Mission News* Oct 98).

Blaming the victim

On April 15, 1999 at 4:21 pm, Jane O'Connell was crossing Mission Street at the 21st street intersection. She was struck and fatally injured by southbound Muni bus #14. In what many have characterized as a summary rush to judgement, police and Muni officials concluded that Ms. O'Connell was attempting to cross the street against a red light.

But O'Connell's surviving family members and certain witnesses disagree. "My mother was a very vibrant and cautious person who lived her entire life in the Mission... she was very street-savvy. So when a policeman told me she'd crossed against the red light, I knew right off the bat that was an outright lie," said Susan O'Connell.

Jane's co-workers at the Environmental Protection Agency paint a picture of an active, healthy woman whose appearance belied her age. "People routinely placed her age at sixty," said Jerry Ellis, an office manager at the EPA who knew Jane for over six years and was friends with her both at and outside of work.

Joan Stokes, an assistant receptionist at the EPA, agrees. "I was shocked when I

read the article saying she was walking against the red light because that's completely out of character for Jane. I'm new to this area, and Jane was always telling me, 'If you want to live in the city, you've got to be careful, especially of the buses.' It's ironic because she was always warning me that Muni was reckless," Stokes said. Stokes often went out for lunch with Jane. "She would always wait for the light to change, and on top of that she'd double-check to make sure the coast was clear."

There was virtually no investigation prior to the conclusion that Ms. O'Connell was at fault. The police report contains only two witnesses: a Muni driver traveling in the opposite direction, and a woman who said she didn't see Jane O'Connell.

Muni spokesperson Alan Siegel said that the investigation into the Jane O'Connell accident continues, but he was unable to provide any new information. Regarding recent news reports that the bus that killed Jane O'Connell had a faulty brake, Siegel commented, "The only comment we're going to make about the brakes is that it is our determination the brakes were not a contributor to the accident."

O'Connell's family members were able to secure the help of mayoral candidate Clinton Reilly, a personal friend of the family. He held two press conferences in May, accusing Muni of superficial investigation and of attempting to shirk responsibility. "How is it that a woman crossing the street in broad daylight is said to be in error before an investigation is completed?" Reilly said.

Transit signal priority device

Susan O'Connell believes that the transit signal priority device which controls the traffic signal at that intersection, as well as sub-standard driving on the part of Muni operators, are the real causes of her mother's death.

The Department of Parking and Traffic installed transit signal priority devices in 1988 to facilitate faster, smoother trips for public transit users. They extend the length of green-light phases and reduce the length of red-light phases in favor of Muni vehicles. There are seventy such devices throughout the City; twelve of which operate on Mission Street.

According to DPT Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Coordinator Nick Carr, "When an overhead trolley, such as the 14 Mission bus, approaches an intersection with a traffic priority system, the system automatically gets tripped. If the switch is tripped during the early part of the green phase, eight seconds of green light time will be added to the normal green cycle. When there is another bus behind the first bus the switch will be tripped again, adding an additional 12 seconds for a total maximum of 20 possible extra seconds to the green cycle."

According to Carr, if the switch is tripped during the red-light phase, the cross street's red light would be hastened by four seconds. However, if it is tripped during the yellow phase, the yellow light will maintain its usual duration.

On May 15, another accident was added to the Muni roster: twenty-eight year old Justino Interian Baa was critically injured when he was hit by the N-Judah at Second and King streets just past noon. Again, Muni officials claimed he was try-



This memorial to Jane O'Connell was placed at 21st and Mission, the site her fatal accident. Photo by v e miller

ing to cross against the red light. The accident reportedly happened at an intersection with a traffic signal priority device. Although Baa survived the incident, due to his injuries he is paraplegic. "I was going to pick up my paycheck. I was going to the 31 Balboa bus, but I never made it - I got hit by the bus instead," said Baa.

Exact statistics on pedestrian-Muni collisions are difficult to obtain. Bob Planthold of Senior Action Network, who chaired the pedestrian safety committee, explained that standard police report forms which describe vehicle-pedestrian accidents do not distinguish between charter buses and transit buses. "In Muni's training rooms, there are posters of the top twenty accident intersections involving a Muni vehicle. The intersections at 16th and 24th and Mission are in the top twenty pretty consistently for Muni accidents. Muni needs to do something different in order to improve safety in these Mission street intersection," Planthold said.

Vicky Semones, Community Involvement Coordinator with the Environmental Protection Agency's San Francisco office, where Jane O'Connell worked up until her death, drafted and circulated a petition asking that the City (1)

initiate a thorough and independent investigation of the collision; (2) immediately halt the use of the traffic pre-empt devices; (3) make safety the number one priority of the transit system. The Jane O'Connell Petition for Muni Safety, as it is called, has garnered over 600 signatures to date.

Semones is outraged at the City's lack of attention to safety issues. "They are planning on installing another 70 of these systems without first understanding all the problems. That's unconscionable in the face of so many unanswered questions and conflicting information. You cannot jeopardize the very people you're trying to serve by allowing something that's inherently dangerous," she said.

Mayor Brown recently recommended an independent review of Muni accidents. By the end of June, the City is expected to come up with a recommendation for how to better serve Muni riders and make sure that it's safer, according to Ron Vincent of the Mayor's office. Semones, who met with Mayor Brown regarding this issue, said she was "encouraged by the respect and empathy Mayor Brown showed to Dennis O'Connell and myself. He took great pains to explain the intricacies of the problems at Muni, and encouraged me to keep pushing."

Loft battle Continued from page one

the technical justification of what we wrote into the legislation. It was certainly our intent to stop all live/work permits in the pipeline."

Still working on the details

Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano said they were following the lead of Mission representatives like Debra Walker who encouraged them to move this legislation forward. "I'm not sure there should even be a live/work code," Walker maintains that the Board can do anything they chose. "We are still working on which date to make the proposed moratorium retroactive, in order to catch the most egregious projects."

Joe O'Donoghue, president of the Residential Builders Association (RBA) and primary spokesman for live/work developers, described the coming Board of Supervisors hearing as the "Mother of all Hearings." He said, "It is time that people of this City see what is really behind our current housing crisis. Sue Bierman is a land-use Neanderthal and largely responsible for the outrageous housing shortage in San Francisco. Instead of helping long term residents of San Francisco buy property and benefit from the housing market, the majority of our residents remain

imprisoned in rental units which they can never afford to leave. Only newcomers

who have lived and invested somewhere else first can afford to own property in San Francisco now."

It will be interesting to watch the Board of Supervisors try their hand at land-use planning with looming district elections. Perhaps it will eventually result in exposing this City's lack of a meaningful housing policy. Prevailing wisdom would say that if we are going to create new jobs and bring more people into the City we need to provide new housing. Live/Work should have been the ultimate solution to this balancing act, but not if the system allows these units to function as luxury housing without being used for business, as the zoning requires.

The Board of Supervisors could easily solve this ongoing land-use struggle - if, rather than taking the simple-minded, all-or-nothing approach, they would direct the Planning Department to enforce their own regulations. If Live/Work units were being used as they were intended we wouldn't be in this mess. The Planning Department has historically been unwilling to do any ongoing enforcement of their codes and we have a multitude of land use conflicts as a result. Live/Work is only the latest boil.

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To join this coalition, call Rescue Muni at 273-1558 or visit them on the web at www.rescuemuni.org.

San Francisco businesses salute this coalition for its efforts to develop real solutions to Muni's problems. The Committee on Jobs is a coalition of 35 large local employers who collectively employ 50,000 people in San Francisco. Many of these workers depend on Muni to get to and from work and are frustrated by its decline. >

J O B S
COMMITTEE ON

Mission gang prevention efforts to be overhauled

Lack of success spurs search for new ways to reduce youth violence

By David Mauroff

Over the past two months, articles in this paper asserting gang prevention efforts in the Mission are failing have prompted discussion, sometimes angry discussion, about what needs to be done. Several people expressed their frustration about gangs and how they are being handled, especially in regard to how dollars are being spent and the lack of results. Others were interested in collecting information to support their own programs. One funder was surprised that someone had the guts to raise the issue in the first place. Some agencies were upset that they were targeted and felt that their efforts were misrepresented.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

As one of the agencies identified in the article, the Real Alternatives Program (RAP) joined the process of bringing a pro-active solution to the Mission District. Julia Globus-Sabori, Program Coordinator at RAP, Erika Roman, Mayor's Liaison to the Mission and Bernal Heights; Cathy Garza, Planner for the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families and myself met on two occasions.

The conversation quickly moved beyond finger pointing and got down to dealing with the issue at hand. Due to the illegal activities they are involved in, street gangs in the Mission are not a positive alternative for youth and they continue to have a dominant presence in the neighborhood.

We decided that the first step is to deal with the issue on a local level. As a result, on June 16th from 6 pm to 8 pm, all com-

munity stakeholders are invited to attend a forum on gang and violence prevention, intervention and suppression in Room 201 of City Hall. To participate in this effort contact Erika Roman at 554-6267.

In respect to San Francisco at large, education and planning are a realistic part of starting over and bringing communities together. A conference on violence and gang prevention and intervention is being proposed for January of 2000. This forum is being designed to address the gang situation throughout San Francisco by bringing in outside experts that are dealing with the problem.

To solve the constant dilemma of egos, San Francisco social service agencies, law enforcement, residents and other concerned parties will be invited to attend as participants but not as presenters.

In addition, representatives from Columbia Park Boys & Girls Clubs and RAP are identifying experts in the gang prevention and intervention field to evaluate our situation and give their recommendations. Frank Sanchez, Senior Director of Delinquency Prevention at Boys & Girls Clubs of America, who oversees numerous successful prevention and intervention programs across the United States (including the Chicago and Fort Worth programs featured last month), has committed his support and technical assistance to local efforts.

The Mission's gang problem has some defining features which need careful consideration and a specific response. The Mission is a unique community because rival street gangs are close to each other, the entire problem is compacted into no more than a dozen city blocks. It is necessary to look at several models and be open for modification, based on what works for this neighborhood and San Francisco.

Close proximity to each other would seemingly increase the potential for violence in the Mission. In actuality, the gang homicide rate here is low compared to other metropolitan areas.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSE

Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano also called to meet about the issue of gangs in the Mission. Along with Erika Roman, Constituent Liaison Sandra Ruiz and myself, Supervisor Ammiano took some time to learn more about the issue and discuss possible solutions. He agreed that the January 2000 conference is a good idea and will research ways that the Board of Supervisors can support effective and innovative approaches. In general, the conversation revolved around the Mission, and why the gang situation hasn't improved.

One of the main points everyone agreed upon was the importance of increasing accountability. As dollars are invested in non-profits, there needs to be a system to track results. As agencies work

together, collaborations must not form to appease funding guidelines, but because they make sense and the agencies involved have realistic working relationships and meet common goals.

COMMON THEMES

Despite the different approaches and strategies of those involved in gang prevention, there are some things on which everyone can agree:

In the Mission, families must be involved if gang intervention is expected to work. Several generations of family members are sometimes involved in gangs, and the legacy will continue with their children. In contrast, some young people from Mexico and Central America are here without any family support, and they turn to gangs to fill the need.

Cultural identity is getting lost in the changing neighborhood and limited scope of the San Francisco's educational system. This ties into the problem above as the cost of living increases and parents work long hours to make ends meet, unable to keep tabs on their children. A host of social and economic factors contribute to the cycle of gang involvement and violence in the community.

MOVING FORWARD

The groups involved do not see eye to eye on all fronts, but a realistic plan is being mapped out to begin working together. An understanding was reached that although our approaches are different, our goals remain the same.

By actually discussing the problems at hand, positive steps are being taken. This sounds like a broken record, but it is important that social service agencies, residents, merchants and youth work together.

er. There isn't one agency that can solve the overwhelming gang and violence problems in the Mission, nor is their one solution. Together, we can and will make a difference.

In September of this year, Columbia Park Boys & Girls Clubs is reopening its Guerrero Street facility. After a year of extensive renovation, the building is well equipped to serve youth of all ages and teens in particular. The brand new teen center, full gym and first floor layout will be perfect for weekday, Friday and Saturday night events, and open for other agencies to bring youth.

¡Brava! has just finished recruiting new applicants for the Running Crew that is another great opportunity for youth to learn marketable skills and show off their work with a performance created by youth artists. RAP summer school starts June 14; the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center is expanding their capacity to work with gang-involved youth and the Delancey Street Safe Corridor Project is coordinating teen activities between service providers. One resource that Delancey Street could provide is van service so youth can travel safely through the neighborhood. CARECEN has reinstated their tattoo removal program, another valuable resource.

It is important that we approach this problem as a community. The issue isn't who gets the most money or biggest headlines. By working together to provide realistic, positive alternatives to gang involvement and taking a stand against violence, the Mission can become a place where residents can feel safe and all youth grow up to lead productive lives.

Norteño, Sureño, Makhno

Opinion by Victor Miller, Editor-in-Chief

Kevin Keating aka Nestor Makhno has been nabbed by the cops. The latest wave of Mission Yuppie Eradication Project wheat paste street posters came out a little to close in time to the post-Littleton massacre debate. A debate which included countless callers to talk shows asking the question: "Hey, if those trenchcoat kids made all these death threats how come nobody did anything about it?" It was not a good time for MYEP to urge its readership to "attack and destroy" local businesses. Keating's arrest demonstrates the ability of the powers that be, given sufficient political climate motivation, to apprehend those who promote blowing away the citizenry or large parts of the local landscape.

Although, Keating's wall poster broadsides have been going up for a about a year, the fire bombing of a non-yuppie owned vehicle and various acts of vandalism, are so far the net result of their call to action.

Wall messages aerosoled by local street gangs are a different matter. They have blighted the scene for most of the last decade and if the combinations of letters, numbers and roman numerals do not specifically advocate violence, the more than fifty people killed and many more injured in gang related mayhem have given an unambiguous explanation of what the "tags" mean. These misguided and weak-minded assertions of manhood expressing hate, do not just carry a potential for violence like the Yuppie Eradication posters, they realize that potential over and over again. If the message wasn't apparent after the first few dead bodies, it should have gotten through by the 10th or the 20th. It is unclear now only to those who choose not to see it. In

the Mission we watch the walls. When a gang tags a location and another tags over them, we can expect a night of sleep disturbed by the firecracker pop of gunfights, sometimes followed by the scream of sirens, sometimes not.

There is a disproportionate amount of public clamor over MYEP and what they might or might not be saying (although "attack and destroy" is pretty straightforward). There's a long waiting list of those who want to oxymoronically demonstrate their opposition to violence by beating the living bejabbers out of Keating/Makhno. So, one would think that rage against block after block of the public proclamations by Norteño and Sureño factions inciting armed conflict would produce a tidal wave of protest; that the perpetrators would be rounded up and compelled to remove their handiwork. One reason this hasn't happened is because over the years we've come to see violence among inner city youth as a tragic inevitability but when violence or threats emerge outside this narrow demographic, it's suddenly a horrible and intolerable situation. The public and the media demand and usually get immediate responses, of varying efficacy, from the cops and the politicians. Nestor Makhno is busted.

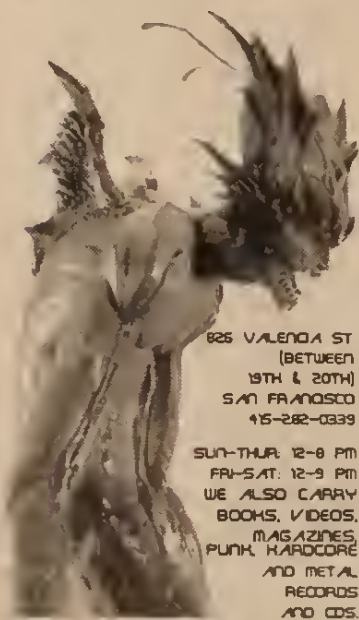
Meanwhile, the gang members go on with business as usual: killing each other. Parents go on working the longer hours to meet the city's rising costs, hoping they're buying the next generation something better, until one night they come home to the news their kid is lying dead in the street. Their lives are permanently wounded, their dreams over. Fresh tags appear in alleys, on storefronts and apartment buildings heralding another cycle of retaliatory shootings, stabbings and beatings. The funerals will not be televised.

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The blue view on heroin dealing

By F.R. Morales

So, do you want to get high? Or rather, do you want to get down? You want some boy, smack, junk - dope? Let me spell it out for you: Do you want some heroin? Well, if you're in the Bay area, there is one place you can go and buy heroin any time of the day, any day of the week - rain or shine. That place is the intersection of 16th and Mission Streets.

The 16th Street BART plaza and its surrounding environs are teeming with men and women involved in the heroin trade. Spend just a few minutes in the area or leisurely stroll through it and you will hear "Outfits," "Dope," "What'cha need?" and similar come-ons whispered to almost everyone that walks by. Every nearby alley has a few used syringes lying in the gutter and the fancy-schmancy public toilet on the plaza is nothing but a low cost, high tech shooting gallery.

The Mission may be gentrifying, the restaurant and club scene may be hot and hopping, but at Dope Central the beat goes on.

I put some questions regarding the dope biz at Bart plaza to Captain Greg Suhr of Mission Police Station at his monthly community relations meeting in April. His responses were both forthright and revealing.

When asked whether there had been an increase in heroin use and sales in the area, Captain Suhr replied that demand has been relatively static during the last 20 years.

However, he attributed much of the persistence of the problem to the high number of Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels and the high number of parolees released into the area who populate them. According to Capt. Suhr, these people provide a steady customer base as well as a willing sales force for the heroin trade.

Then Suhr made a startling statement. He said: "What you've got to understand is that today, heroin is essentially free."

He went on to explain that mid-level dealers sell a gram and a quarter of heroin for the street price of a gram to street level dealers who are usually junkies. So every gram the street level dealer sells nets a quarter gram for personal use. Therefore, if a street level dealer has a gram a day habit they can supply that habit by selling four grams a day. Addicted street level dealers make the most motivated sales force you can imagine.

Suhr further revealed that the "outfits" being sold around BART plaza come from needle exchange programs that often enlist local junkies to help them distribute clean syringes. After establishing a relationship with the exchange program staff, junkies will be given a box of a one hundred clean syringes - which are to be exchanged for dirty ones among the junkies' own contacts. Instead of meeting with other junkies and making the exchange, the junkie-dealer promptly heads down to BART plaza to sell his nice, clean syringes for cash.

When questioned about a rumor that the mid level dealers are East Bay based and deliver their wares to 16th Street via BART, Captain Suhr stated that there was no direct evidence of this but that it was a possibility. He did mention a recent two pound heroin bust in the vicinity of 18th and Valencia Streets.

In Captain Suhr's eyes, the SROs are at the crux of the heroin problem in the Mission. It seems the owners of these hotels profit at least as much as the upper level heroin dealers from the misery that they are exploiting. Suhr claims that SRO owners are charging two, three, sometimes even four hundred dollars a week for 12 by 12 foot rooms without a bathroom mostly at taxpayer expense.

In the final analysis, the heroin trade is demand driven. In the Mission, the core customer base is the sales force, and they are housed in the many SROs surrounding the 16th Street BART plaza at public expense. Even when they are arrested, charged, convicted and sent to jail they are inevitably re-released into our neighborhood. Back into the waiting arms of the SROs and the mid-level dealers. Back to their street corners and room vouchers. Back to hustling grams, outfits and even their bodies to supply their ever-growing habits.

The plague spreads

I was walking my dogs in Dolores Park one morning last week. I always walk them there before I go to work. I entered the park at 19th and Dolores, walked up around the clubhouse, and followed the path past the playground back out to Dolores Street. As I walked past the playground I looked down and saw a used syringe - just a few feet from the swing sets. I took out one of my pooper-scooper bags, stuck my hand in it, carefully picked up the syringe, sealed it in the plastic bag and threw it in a near-by trash can. I'm not sure if it was the right thing to do. But I couldn't just leave it there so near that swing set and I certainly was not going to take it home.

In some ways 19th and Dolores seems to be miles away from 16th and Mission. The sidewalks are cleaner. The streets are quieter. The apartments are certainly more expensive. But the plague reaches there just the same. Even into the playgrounds.



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Heroin :Searching in the Mission

By Bana Witt

Here at 16th and Folsom, still in view of the tower on the Mission Dolores Basilica, the streets are lined with pretty trees planted by the Friends of the Urban Forest. Everyone seems to be strung out on Mexican black tar heroin and looking for a vein to put it in.

You see them searching while sitting on the sidewalk, in an alley, in a car, on the ground in the corner of a parking lot, a syringe in one hand, a belt wrapped around the other arm, their feet twitching in anticipation, their faces a study in psychotic intensity. Or their coats draped over their heads like little body tents in the heat of the Gobi, trying to keep out of the sand and the sunlight.

As the sun starts its gray descent into the western fog things start to heat up, the hunger comes on the 'hood and starts them digging in the dirt around the trees. People have hidden dope in there and someone else has found it, so now they all look, digging with both bare hands in the dirt. They Dig frantically in the dirt where the dogs piss and shit, trying for the free score. Trying to find gold in the dirt, trying hopelessly to stay ahead of the pain, because by the time they're digging in the dirt they're in the back of the pack and pain is biting at their Achilles tendons and brining them down.

Brief alliances are made between skanky girls and burned out men who pool their resources, sell their food stamps and fight in the middle of the street in panicked voices because the pain is catching up. And after they score they just sit down on the sidewalk and start the hunt. The hunt for a vein, the hunt for Red October beneath the ocean of callused skin. They slap their arms, begging that vein to stand

up and be counted and to let them tap into bliss like a maple tree.

There's a girl in the back of an old Volvo station wagon once used by a soccer mom, now the windows are covered with cardboard, now the cardboard falls down as I walk by with my dog. She is sitting up in the back with her arm extended. ASSUME THE POSITION!! She's staring at her arm, she's watching for that sanguine wellspring. She's poking herself with a needle, yelling GOD DAMNIT GOD DAMNIT! The car door is open to the sidewalk; her partner is digging in the dirt around the trees, digging in the dirt sifting out tiny pieces of paper and plastic. Looking for silver or uranium, he's looking for something to make him glow in the dark with no bill from PG&E.

She's poking her arm looking for the bloodstream. It's hiding, it can't take it anymore: her life is hiding from the spear in her hand.

The junkies are sweet children, cooing to my little dog as they pass. The junkies are tough animals puking and curling up against the wall. They gather up blankets and make little shelters; they find a vein and have pajama parties in the street.

They are sure everything they find is priceless, everything that shines is precious metal, and every dream will manifest itself tomorrow - if they can only find a vein.

When they've finally found one the street blooms in springtime, the shredded papers blowing by are really blossom petals, the day flies by unencumbered by time, it doesn't matter where they are or how they got there.

They want to sing the Marseillaise and declare their independence from taxes,



food and bowel movements. They've got a big head start on the monster in the basement, half a day at least.

They're gonna turn tricks with glamorous strangers who will see how beautiful they really are and fall in love with them. They'll be on the left bank sipping Armagnac after winning the lottery. They won't be here looking for a vein, looking for a subterranean River Styx. They'll be along the Seine where they can ship their cargo for free, where they can find designer clothes just their size in abandoned shopping carts. Where their little plastic dolls from childhood have never lost their shoes, where Uncle Bob never reached under their dress.

They put on their orange pancake makeup in the rear view mirrors of parked cars trying to camouflage the damage, to hide the decay, to build an all-weather facade over the dry rot in the walls.

They limp by like the tired veterans of some listless domestic war. Bruises and abscesses map out their bodies' terrain and

another government issue cane helps their swollen feet shuffle along, feet where the last veins have given up trying to hide.

Someone takes up a stick with both hands and digs around the trees again. There must be a stash here. The dirt flies across the sidewalk. Every patch of upstart grass is ripped up, the roots examined for hidden treasure. Nothing grows any longer in the seams of the concrete. Free dope in the dirt, free dope and a good vein will jump up and offer itself as a sacrifice to soldiers of lost fortunes, bending spoons without the help of psychic powers.

They carry old plastic bottles of water for mixing up the dope. They carry their delusions like dried dates and swallow's meat. Lost nomads who have long ago eaten their camels and burned down their tents when they nodded out and a lit cigarette fell from scabby fingers.

Children of a hateful god pass out as the curtain closes on a desperate act; they dream of big fat veins pumping blood like artesian wells to the thirsty sands of a great big heart.

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The disease of addiction

by Lisa Milos

“Debbie” lost three kids consecutively to Child Protective Services because of her drug use. She started inhaling glue when she was nine, popped pills in her early teens then a boyfriend gave her heroin when she was twenty. He started pimping her soon after. Born in a little town in Southern California she says her mom “didn’t really know what was going on.” She’s been in jail a couple of times for drug possession but she’s never been caught dealing which would’ve gotten her a stiffer sentence. Each time she got out, she’d start using again. Sometimes she could even get dope inside. In any case, the waiting list for drug counseling is excessively long. “It just hurts too much to leave all your friends behind, they’re all I got. I don’t have my children; my mother won’t see me. What do I have left? Just a whole lot of pain.”

“I can’t blame anybody but myself” she says, “I chose this life and I’ve paid for it, I’m still paying for it.”

Many people talk as if it were just a matter of making a choice. Even some drug addicts themselves believe at one point or another that they’re choosing to use. The very nature of addiction is the absence of the power to choose. A lot of the hip street health outreach literature even mention a term: “drug of choice.” But it’s the drug that chooses you - literally. If you grew up in Oakland in the eighties, crack had its eye on you. In the New York City barrios during the sixties it was heroine. In the 70’s, acid seeped into the suburbs. Like a well-designed marketing plan.

Most people need help to put and keep the blinders on. There’s also meth, beanies and ecstasy. Even good old weed has unforeseen potency levels. Other people do quite well on their own, like harnessed horses they may plod along all their lives, oblivious to pain and self absorbed in their individual successes and little choices. But are they on their own?

Need a jolt to help you think? Have some coffee! Can’t sleep? Try EZ ZZZ’s! Something missing? Why not phone sex? Bored? There are always video games, boxing, bungy jumping or even anonymous sex!! Talk about blinders.

How long did it take for alcoholism to be accepted as a disease? Yet many still

fault alcoholics for their “weaknesses.” How long has it taken to hold cigarette companies publicly accountable for making nicotine more addictive and for targeting youth? Instead of eliciting more compassion from us, we exclude, castigate and blame smokers, many of whom started before they had lived long enough to learn about making choices.

Users of illegal drugs are the easiest targets of all. Even many addicts in recovery take occasional stabs at their former “partners-in-crime.” Like ex-smokers who’ve forgotten how many times they had wholeheartedly “decided” to quit and failed, they chastise users for not making a “choice to be clean,” for not accompanying them up the ladder to join the rest of humanity - as if the rest were really that pure. Even the clean-shaven fifties had housewives on Valium and martini cocktail couples. What’s the difference between them and today’s illegal drug addicts? Perhaps it’s that the addicts of the fifties weren’t such a public eyesore. Today’s drug addicts can be seen and their visibility exposes us to our negligence.

What’s the difference between the socially accepted activity and the criminal activity? It’s precisely because heroin, cocaine and other similar substances are so addictive that they should be legalized. This would make it easier to treat addiction, and it would probably bring down the prostitution rate too. Drug addiction is a disease prevalent throughout the country and public health budgets should give it priority treatment.

Why hasn’t this already been done? It’s an industry and there are major players behind it. The prison industry is also part of the problem. If it weren’t illegal, then there would be no crime, right? Would we then need so many police, probation officers, guards or clerks? Would we need so many prisons, or weapons? Would the government be able to confiscate millions of dollars worth of assets every year from people that are just accused instead convicted of a drug crime?

It would be a whole different picture. But then again the live action cop programs on TV would have a lot less material to air now wouldn’t they?

There are many more people in prison for drug offenses than for violent crimes.

Can it be that we’ve become addicted to the thrill of the hunt?

Heroin: a case for decriminalization

By Victor Miller

Drug dealing and prostitution along Sixteenth Street will persist as long they are seen exclusively as crime issues. The most recent attempt to employ innovative law enforcement efforts to these problems involves seizing the vehicles of those caught buying drugs for sex on the city streets. There are a few difficulties with the new offensive.

For one, should a grandma loan her old Chevy to a good-for-nothing grandson who gets busted scoring junk, the car gets grabbed nonetheless. For another, while asset seizure, as its called, may have some transitory effect on prostitution, where vehicles are actually used in the consummation of the crime, it will have little impact on the overwhelmingly walk by 16th Street drug trade. And it is supporting a habit that drives many women into the “life” in the first place. In the long run asset seizure will be just another election year gimmick that will make temporary gains in reducing the number of street dealers and junkies while doing a permanent injury to the personal liberties of everybody else.

But you can hardly blame police or prosecutors for coming up with this stuff. People in working class neighborhoods like the Mission tend to go ballistic when they find syringes discarded in the local playground or have their kids stumble across a hooker at work as she tries to make enough money for a fix. The outraged parents go to community meetings, like the monthly Police Community Relations meeting at Mission Station, and vent their frustration on whatever of the constabulary is in attendance. (Usually the cops are the most moderate people in attendance, knowing full well if they follow the club ‘em and book ‘em demands of the populace, it’ll be their butts on the line.) The cops and the lawyers will come up with something though and what they come up with will inevitably be ways that make it easier to arrest people and put them in jail.

Unfortunately, the inventive law enforcement method that gets heroin dealers off the street today may be the same ones used to round up political dissidents tomorrow. We are rapidly approaching a point where we must decide between a set of values based on personal freedom and civil rights and a simplistic ethos that says certain drugs are bad and the people that use them should be locked up at any cost. So far there’s a good chance we’re going to make the wrong choice.

The only way to deal with the powerful force of addiction is to treat it as a health issue not a legal issue, decriminalize heroin and other drugs and make them available on a supervised basis to those currently providing the profit motive for the drug trade. While the social and political changes necessary to reach this goal are going to be a long time coming, it represents a more livable future than one with less and less freedom and more and more prisons.

That’s not to say people in this and other communities should continue to put up with violence, crime and squalor until the long term solution is reached. But perhaps, if the ferocity the public now directs at police and the courts were directed instead at our Health Department and the Mayor’s Office, we would start moving in the right direction and some things would change rapidly. Our so-called treatment on demand program, for instance, might stop being just a waiting list on demand. Presently, this program is funded with just enough money to look impressive on campaign literature but not enough money to make any discernable difference.

Stealing people’s cars and other catchy schemes that play fast and loose with the Bill of Rights will just wind up being dangerous failures. Addiction is a public health crisis and because it has not been addressed as such for so long it has created a crime and quality of life disaster in our communities, and that is something people should be angry about.



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Guest Opinion

City recklessly slashes health care

By William C. Brady

The brutality of it all violates the Hippocratic Oath's first rule of "to do no harm." Public Health Care for poor people in the City of St. Francis of Assisi is being devastated.

On March 3, the Public Health Commission closed one of two pharmacies at the General Hospital complex in order to save \$1 million and narrow a budget shortfall. As a result, patients must wait two to four hours to drop off prescriptions at the hospital's main pharmacy. When they return 24 or more hours later to pick up their medications, they must wait another four to six hours. Most patients can not sit, as there are few seats. Fights break out when frustration finally takes its toll of very sick patients and when they lose their place in line for trying to sit down. The commission's response was to hire four new "security" officers, and there are plans for more as needed.

My wife's nephew, who has no insurance, is an outpatient at General Hospital. He spent nearly three weeks without a necessary medication, Risperdal, for his serious nervous condition. San Francisco General wanted \$59 for it, which he couldn't pay. He was sent to a commercial pharmacy, which tried to sell him the same medication for \$89, which he couldn't pay. The result: He received no medication until his family intervened. His doctor wrote a note, which allowed him to buy the medication from General Hospital for \$2. How many poor, seriously ill, confused patients are going without their medications because conditions have been made so difficult for them?

Such an outrage should not be permitted in the city named after the most caring of saints. The contradiction is too much for all who think of ourselves as caring, progressive, and fair. For the past few years city health services have lost contributions from the federal government, while generally retaining the same contributions from the state and city.

The overall shortfall for this fiscal year has been put at \$26 million to \$29 million by the Public Health Commission. In addition to appealing for more money from the federal government, the city must rearrange its own priorities more fairly. Relatively few of the 2,600 hires this mayor made for the past three years over the previous mayor's, costing well over \$1 billion, went to Public Health.

No help for the poor

What better use to put public money to than the health of its people, so often a matter of life or death? Those who generally receive Public Health services are our most vulnerable people, those who cannot help themselves and have nowhere else to go. Yet, since March 3, the Public Health Commission has exacerbated the problems of the poor and sick as it started making terribly deep service and administrative cuts in order to balance the budget. There was nothing to cut in infrastructure costs as virtually nothing has been spent on it in years.

Last January, in the State of the City Address, the Mayor announced a \$102 million budget surplus with great fanfare, assuring citizens that "This economic prosperity translates into an improved quality of life for all San Franciscans." Of course, many lay claim to this money, but Public Health should be the first priority. It most definitely is not so regarded by the evidence of what is happening now.

On March 12, after the Public Health Commission made the first draconian cuts in health services for the poor, the mayor miraculously "found" \$23 million from the city's budget surplus. This would cover most of the shortfall this year and forestall further service cuts, according to Mitch Katz, the Public Health Director. This should have trimmed the budget shortfall to \$3 million to \$5 million.

However, members of the Public Health Commission indicated shortly after that the money had not actually been allocated to Public Health yet, and that smaller amounts were being discussed at the mayor's office.

Doctors denounce cuts

On March 23, 50 speakers, almost all doctors and nurses, spoke out strongly against cuts at a special Public Health Commission meeting which doctors demanded. They spoke out forcefully for a restoration of the pharmacy. Several members of the Commission said that they "got a wakeup call," had "heard the message," and thanked the audience for "the deserved spanking." The Public Health Director stated that there would be no service cuts.

On April 5, the Public Health Department, for the first time in about 35 years, started charging most patients for a minimum of \$2 for medications (and most patients require more than one medication). Uninsured patients are now diverted to another department to work out a "payment plan," causing further delays, more red tape, and discouragement. Some patients are required to pay up to \$250 per month on a cost-sharing basis, which represents part of or the full retail price, for some medications. Patients with Medical, Medicare, and other insurance are routinely sent to commercial pharmacies where medications are generally more costly than at General Hospital, and the most expensive brands are often pushed on them.

The Emergency Coalition to Save Public Health, composed of doctors, nurses and patients of the Community Health Network, was formally organized April 28 to speak for the poor sick. The outcry to stop the cuts and restore funding for the pharmacy, the medusa, and the necessary hires is gaining volume. It is seeking action from the Board of Supervisors in the form of recommendations by the appropriate committees and legislation. It is watching to prevent any reprisals against the brave doctors and nurses speaking out, such as the firing of Deputy Public Health Director Bob Prentice on March 1, evidently for speaking out against the devastating cuts. It is exploring possibilities for legal action against the cuts.

William C. Brady, a retired university professor, is spokesperson for the recently formed Emergency Coalition to Save Public Health, and is a longtime patient of the San Francisco General Hospital. The Coalition e-mail address: savepublichealth@netscape.net. Telephone (415) 431-7760.

Editor's note: This edition of the New Mission News was nearly delayed, due to the obligingness of Associate Editor Lisa Gonzalez. Lisa, who suffers from asthma depends on General's pharmacy for her medication. When asked by overworked pharmacy staff if she could wait another day to get her prescription filled, she said "Yeah, sure." Well, we all had an uneasy laugh about that the next day visiting Lisa in the intensive care ward. Lisa has promised to stop being so nice.

Mission Branch Library reopens on schedule

The Mission Branch Library is now back at 24th and Bartlett after the completion of nearly two years of renovations. The new jazzed-up facility is seismically sound, has a state of the art bank of computers in the main reading room and a computer lab on the main floor. The reading room is now larger and a lot quieter with the elimination of the central stairway. The Mission Branch also finally has adequate heating and ventilation.

Mayor Willie Brown and City Treasurer Susan Leal attended a grand rededication ceremony on May 8. Funding for the remodeling came primarily from a voter approved bond measure but supplementary funding for construction improvements such as computers, furnishings and book shelves was raised from private sources by the Mission Library Fund, a community based volunteer organization.

One of the projects of the Fund was the Life in the Mission Poetry Contest for youth. Contest winners read their work at the rededication. The winner in the Grades 3 to 5 category was this group poem by Edgar Gonzalez, Samuel Martinez, Celeste Robleto, Maria Rodriguez and Emmanuel Suarez from Spring Valley Elementary School.

Life in the Mission

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In the Mission,
life is like a heart,
that unites the Latinos
in one nation.

In the Mission,
when we walk around
our barrio,
we feel very proud to know

that we find the most
beautiful things there.

In the Mission,
when we want to enjoy
food
from different countries
here is where it is.
Burritos, tacos and nachos
pupusas and atol de elote
rellenitos, tamales and mole
and not to forget the pozole.

In the Mission,
when we want to read
or listen to a story
we count on our library
with great pride.
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who is very inspiring,
who will read a story of
action, fiction and with
much imagination.
It is a beautiful honor
to have our very own library
in our "neighborhood."

In the Mission,
there's something
we need to talk about,
what we would like
to change.
From the sixteenth to
nineteenth streets
What a sad situation!
We see bars,
prostitution
and drug addiction.

In the Mission,
we don't want to see any of this
in our barrio Latino.
We want to see healthy
people
who are happy in their lives.

In the Mission,
we don't want destruction
we want action.
We will unite
to save Our Mission!



The newer, warmer and quieter reading room has lots of customers. Photo by v e miller

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A REASONABLE MAN COULD NOT BE FAULTED FOR BELIEVING THE DEVIL HIMSELF HAS BEEN CALLED IN AS PLANNING DIRECTOR...

—Charles McCabe, Chronicle columnist, 1974

Where have all the Blue Collar jobs gone?

When San Francisco makes a civic mistake, it does so on a grand scale. In the last century, the city fathers were ready to tear down most of San Francisco's fabled hills because horse wagons couldn't haul

building material up the steep inclines during the rainy season. Only the pioneering introduction of the cable car in 1873 by Andrew Hallidie saved the city's hills from the ravages of progress. Cable cars were also run along Market Street and the area south of the long slot that held the strong wire cables that pulled the cars along the city's main thoroughfare became known as the South of The Slot.

The South of The Slot is now called SOMA. It is undergoing a tremendous rejuvenation anchored by the new Giants PacBell Stadium, a burgeoning entertainment industry and the birth of Multimedia Gulch as part of the hi-tech industry of Silicon Valley relocates in San Francisco.

The area is in the news because some critics of the loft-type housing being built in the old industrial area are blaming the housing for removing blue collar jobs from the South of Market. Even a cursory reading of San Francisco history shows they are woefully misguided in making that assertion.

The story of where all the famed blue collar jobs of San Francisco went is best told in urban historian Chester W. Hartman's book, *Yerba Buena: Land Grab and Community Resistance in San Francisco*, which was published in 1973 by Glide Publications.

The story is nothing less than a tale of deliberate ethnic cleansing of blue collar San Francisco.

Hartman starts the clock on the exodus of the blue collar workers and lower middle class out of the city with a 1950s decision by civic leaders to expand San Francisco's post WWII role as "the administrative headquarters of the West Coast and the Pacific Basin." Hartman writes that after the Second World War leading businessmen re-rationalized the regional organization of the Bay Area along geographical lines that best served business growth—the Peninsula and the South Bay became the area for light manufacturing and electronics, the East Bay a center for heavy industry and San Francisco "the center for administration, finance, consulting and entertainment." Blue collar hovels would become Yerba Buena highrises.

The tool of the eventual ethnic cleansing of blue collar South of Market was the Redevelopment Agency with its awesome powers of eminent domain and federal subsidies. The city's power structure concurred that blue collar South of Market had to go for the sake of progress. As for the poorer residents of the area, the San Francisco Examiner wrote in 1971 that "such people" were "an unsought burden."

The results were soon to become clear for San Francisco traditional blue collar workers. The number of San Franciscans employed as laborers and craftsmen plummeted more than 50 percent in the decades between 1950 and 1970 while those employed in professional-technical and clerical jobs rose more than 50 percent. San Francisco was trading its blue collars for white shirts.

For good or evil, decisions had been made in the 60s and 70s that would change San Francisco irreversibly. By 1990, before any live-work lofts were built on the abandoned industrial sites of South of Market, the blue collar base that had been a defining part of the San Francisco personality was as much a part of the city's past as the oyster crates of lore.

By 1990, the core of the old light industrial



"OLD SAN FRANCISCO WAS DIVIDED BY THE SLOT... North of the Slot were the theatres, hotels and shopping district, the banks and the staid respectable business houses. South of the Slot were the factories slums, laundries, machine shops, boiler works and the abodes of the working class."

—Jack London

SOMA was an unweeded urban landscape of vacant lots with empty and burnt-out buildings. Before our members began building housing on the vacant lots that had long ago housed industry, complaints from people living in the area of loitering, commerce in drugs, and public defecation were continuous. Live-work lofts on those vacant lots have brought safety and stability to streets that were dangerous to behold. And they meet a real need—the availability of housing near their jobs for the more than 7500 new hi-tech employees who have gone to work in South of Market over the last four years.

DECLINE IN BLUE COLLAR JOBS: RISE IN WHITE COLLAR JOBS

| 1950-1960 | 1960-1970 |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Craftsmen -20% | Craftsmen -18% |
| Laborers -18% | Laborers -19% |
| Professional-Tech +13% | Professional-Tech +38% |
| Clerical +9% | Clerical +16% |

Critics of live-work have things topsy-turvy. There is not a job shortage South of Market—there is a housing shortage. San Francisco has the highest home prices in the nation because of

the housing policies advocated by the current critics of South of Market live-work lofts—such as Supervisor Sue Bierman—who were instrumental in passing the 1978 downzoning of the city's neighborhoods, which essentially made 73 percent of San Francisco a no-build zone for new homes and apartments.

A lack of new housing supply means an increase in demand. Within a decade only 7 percent of the people living in San Francisco could afford to become homeowners.

The 1978 NIMBY downzoning designated the old industrial South of Market as the area where new housing should go if needed, if the rental vacancy factor fell significantly below 4%. The vacancy rate long ago fell below 1% but no housing was built.

The 1978 downzoning laws allowed residential and commercial mixed-use in the old industrial sections of town. In the 1990s when the

Multimedia Gulch job market began to expand exponentially, our members began constructing industrial-type loft housing on long vacant lots South Of Market. Because of the relatively lower cost of building on vacant land, these units could be more reasonably priced than the price of homes and condos in the neighborhoods. In the artificially inflated San Francisco housing market, live-work is providing the first significant new entry-level home ownership in years.

The Planning Commission earlier this year restricted the number of live-work lofts being built in South of Market to 8000 over the next two decades. Yet Supervisor

GROWTH IN MULTI MEDIA JOBS IN SOMA

| 1988 | 1998 | %Increase |
|-------|--------|-----------|
| 5,600 | 17,600 | 214.3% |

Bierman and her allies are now calling for a moratorium on all live-work construction on the grounds that the vacant lots South of Market should be saved for ghost jobs that will never come back.

Bierman argues in the midst of a housing crisis that production, distribution and repair businesses South of Market can only be preserved by not building housing there—but these are exactly the type of businesses the Planning Department's Citywide Land Use Study-Demand Analysis concluded were compatible with live-work neighbors:

"Many smaller production/distribution/repair establishments can operate effectively in a mixed use district. They do not generate excessive noise, traffic, fumes, or waste making proximity to other uses difficult. Most of this heavier industrial activity has long since left San Francisco and is not expected to return." (Emphasis added.)

There is a job explosion, not a job deficit, in hi-tech jobs which are the current economic Viagra in the South of Market. Those new workers are looking for housing. If they don't buy or rent the new live-work units being built there, they will commute, adding to the already almost impossible traffic congestion, or buy or rent elsewhere in the city—further squeezing the housing market and raising prices for everyone else.

The City is the worst offender of the Bay Area counties in providing new housing for its citizens.

Another 44,000 blue collar jobs were lost between 1970 and 1995—completing the blue collar cleansing—but more than 114,000 white collar jobs were gained. And no significant new housing was being built.

By 1981 it was clear, as contractors had predicted, that San Francisco had a housing crisis. "SAN FRANCISCO BLAMED FOR BAY AREA HOUSING CRISIS" was the headline on a 1981 Examiner story revealing that San Francisco had added 20,300 new jobs that year—while adding only a net increase of 862 new housing units. "We cannot keep adding jobs without adding housing," said then-planning director Dean Macris. That was in 1981. Things have not changed much. The Examiner reported on May 21, 1999 that the Bay Area Council had again criticized San Francisco for its failure to build middle-class housing.

Oakland, Alameda, and San Jose are moving light years ahead of San Francisco in planning to build loft living in commercial areas. The loft lifestyle has proved popular in revitalized cities across the continent, from New York City to Vancouver. Only San Francisco is bringing up the rear, and is even debating a moratorium on live-work! (If you follow Supervisor Bierman's logic starvation would be a cure for malnutrition.)

The proposed moratorium would halt building desperately needed new housing—in the midst of both a job explosion and a housing crisis. A moratorium on South of Market live-work would only contribute to the continuous rise in the price of housing in the rest of the city. And a moratorium would not bring back the ghosts of blue collar jobs past. **Not one blue collar job has been lost in SOMA because of live-work.**

Silicon Satan



Media Gulch: a new paradigm for urban living

It's hard to believe that just a few years ago the Mission's hot new Media Gulch was one of the most blighted areas of the City. An ugly wasteland of grimy auto repair shops, noisy, smelly factories, and dilapidated housing stock. Two or more oversized families frequently shared cramped dwelling-units. For most, the neighborhood was just a cheap-rent place to crash while they saved their meager wages for used Camaros, tacky gold jewelry, and all the other low-grade consumer items that are so dear to the hearts of our inner-city poor.

Yet even though the soil seemed incomparably barren, the seeds of urban renewal were already starting to sprout. The Bay Guardian, San Francisco's radical-chic lifestyle weekly, moved its offices into the neighborhood, as did a number of other hip media companies. Their presence attracted an influx of young professionals, and gradually sassy new businesses. High-concept, modernist and post-modernist bars, restaurants and coffee shops sprang up to cater to the needs of this sophisticated lunch time crowd.

But, most importantly, the lunch eaters stayed for dinner: the growing popularity of the loft lifestyle meant that the neighborhood could now offer young professionals a wealth of quality living opportunities. The vision of San Francisco's leading developers and architects transformed decaying 19th Century factories into ultra-cool 21st Century living spaces and before long, the new community of Media Gulch was born.

Unlike the area's previous residents, Media Gulch's new, upscale population has obviously taken pride in its neighborhood, cleaning up graffiti and garbage, and

gradually easing out the less desirable elements. The area's streets are now truly a pleasure to stroll through. The shells of the buildings remain the same as they were when this was a slum. But the subtle yet powerful esthetic sensibilities of the new residents have transfigured the neighborhood into something uniquely pleasing. Around every corner, visitors discover hidden gems tucked into the folds of former factories and warehouses: here a stylish hair salon, here a charming gourmet restaurant, there a trendy coffee shop, and so on. Of course, the wealth of sophisticated creativity on display in the neighborhood gives the lie to the constant complaint we hear from the Mission's artist-activist elite: that loft-zoned neighborhoods were meant for artists but have been "overrun" by "high-tech yuppies." As if the puerile productions of our local muralist-vandals and other sadly untalented "artists" were even in the same artistic league as the conceptual decor of such avant-garde venues as Blowfish Sushi or Circadia!

But it's important to realize that Media Gulch is not just another revitalized neighborhood like Miami's South Beach or New York's East Village. Rather, it is a whole new paradigm for urban living. Unlike other urban neighborhoods, Media Gulch does not have a commercial district per se, with all the traffic congestion such areas generate and all the undesirable elements which they seem to attract. Rather, Media Gulch illustrates how one of the best features of suburban living - the concentration of retail commerce into shop-

ping malls, where it does not interfere with the peace and equilibrium of residential areas - can be applied to the urban milieu. Media Gulch residents don't have to tolerate tacky commercial strips like 24th or Mission Street. They can avoid dreary mom-and-pop stores that charge exorbitant prices for life's essentials. By simply driving to the conveniently located Potrero Center, they can take advantage of the higher quality, lower priced top-notch service which national chains and franchises offer.

Of course Media Gulch does have its

problems. Loutish elements posing as "artists' collectives" still hold out on one or two unfortunate blocks in the vicinity of Bryant and 18th. However, the threat these groups pose to the neighborhood is minimal - their childish "performance art" antics and 30-years-out-of-date agitprop buffoonery are admittedly an embarrassment to the community, but little more. The winds of change are blowing through the Mission, sweeping away the old, the failed and the tired, and bringing in their wake fresh visions and hip new urban lifestyles.



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Zapatista and child

A Place Called Chiapas

Canadian filmmaker documents activities of Mexican death squads

by Rose Arrieta

Canadian filmmaker Nettie Wild and her crew traveled through the jungles of southern Mexico for eight months, capturing the ambiguities, fragility and tenacity of the Zapatista uprising. *A Place Called Chiapas*, is a vital and intriguing documentary of the indigenous rebellion in southeastern Mexico that reveals to what lengths a government will go to silence a people. The resulting 90-minute film won the Genie Award (Canada's Oscar) for Best Feature and will be shown in three Bay Area theaters this summer.

"I had planned to cover the official conflict between the Zapatistas and the government," says Wild. "What I ended up with was a film about a hidden war." Wild is speaking of the 20,000 or so people living in the Zapatista-protected area of Chiapas who have fled their villages as a result of threats by paramilitary groups. They are the internal refugees and perhaps the biggest victims of the conflict between the Zapatistas and the Mexican government. Wild's documentary uncoils that world with chilling insight, clearly showing that the government is well aware of the death squads who roam the countryside.

This is a world hidden from outsiders. A world in which thousands of refugees ache for their villages, but pile together in makeshift camps because they are threat-

ened with death if they return.

"It is hidden very artfully," says Wild. "The villagers are surrounded by 30,000 Mexican troops and a media which is 95 percent controlled by the government. We were filming smoke and mirrors, and a government that says black is white."

Wild breaks through the media illusions, filming not only the charismatic guerrilla leader and Zapatista spokesman subcomandante Marcos, who has become a media darling, but looking past that, to the people scared out of their homes. She follows one indigenous group through the jungle who hope to lobby a paramilitary group (ironically called Peace and Justice) to allow them to return to their village.

Wild does not overlook the sophistication of city-bred Marcos, who came to the jungle 12 years ago and brought with him an unerring sense of how to fight a revolution through the media. By weaving together shots of rebel web sites and footage of a "media event" in the muddy jungle, organized by the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), Wild shows how this "media-friendly" revolution effectively uses cyberspace and global media. The EZLN use these tactics like long range missiles, gaining international support and holding off the army troops encircling Zapatista territory.

On camera, paramilitary soldiers accuse the Zapatistas of violence. Off camera, they threaten to kill the Mexican members of the film crew. "About a third of the way into it, I realized I was making film about fear," says Wild. "This made it the most difficult film I have ever made, because fear silences people... that's why it is being used as weapon. People in the villages were in the most difficult position of all, and they were the bravest in terms of telling their story to the camera," she says.

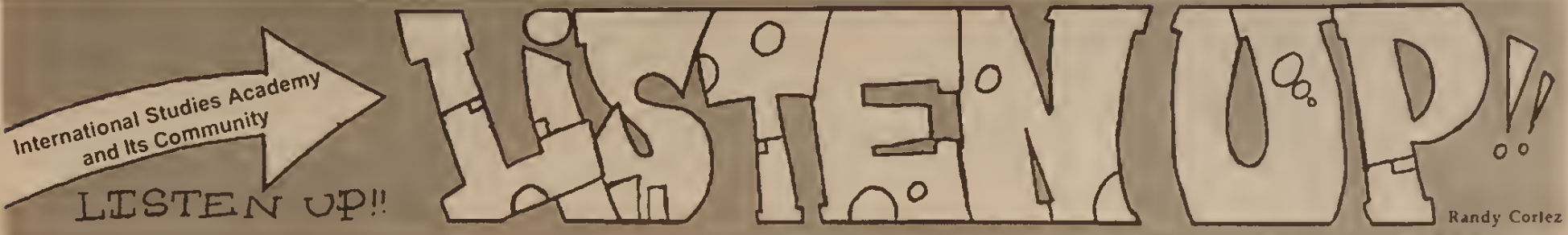
A Place Called Chiapas captures the human dimensions behind the conflict, in a story that is as powerful as it is surreal. It is a moving story, and one that was filmed at great risk. "The unofficial war has resulted in more deaths than the original uprising itself. In 1997 in the village of Acteal, a paramilitary group massacred 45 supposed Zapatista supporters. It triggered a flood of villagers to move into refugee camps." Says Wild, "By Christmas Day 1997 there were 4,000 refugees. Now in 1999, there are between 17,000 - 20,000 internal refugees in Chiapas."

A Place Called Chiapas will be showing at the Castro Theater, San Francisco, June 10-16; UC Berkeley Theatre, June 20-22; San Rafael Film Center, June 25-July 1. For show times call the Castro Theater at (415) 621-6120, the UC Theater at (510) 843-FILM, and the Rafael Film Center at (415) 454-1222.

- Check out this double issue about TEEN STEREOTYPES
- High Schools Should Prepare Teens for Sex! Page A3

This Issue's Theme:
Sex, Drugs and Rock & Roll—
Are all teens doing it?

- Is the news coverage of the war in Serbia biased?
- One student thinks so. Page A5



Dan H.

When You Know You're Ready for Sex

By Colleen Bruce
 ISA Student

The question of knowing the ideal time for sex crosses the minds of many, if not all, teenagers. So when is the "right" time to have sex? The response of different teenagers comes in many different forms. I've asked four different teenagers about their views on "the right time" for having sex.

The first seventeen year old female I interviewed told me that she knew she was ready for sex when she had her first real relationship (which happened to be her freshman year in high school). Although she felt ready, she postponed having sex until she had experienced a few more serious relationships. "I needed to get to know how guys acted before I had sex," she said. "I wanted to see which guy I thought would be right". She also mentioned that she would only have sex if she were in a long term relationship.

$$\text{♂} + \text{♀} = \text{SEX} = \text{BABY}^2$$

The first seventeen year old male I interviewed had a totally different opinion. He said that he was ready because his girlfriend wanted to have sex. After he had sex with her for the first time, he said he did not mind having sex many more times. He admitted that he had sex with many different girls because he felt the urge to.

The second seventeen-year old female I interviewed told me that she would only have sex after she was married. "I think I should only have sex after I'm married, because then I'll know that I've found someone I can count on to be there for life." Later, she admitted that she would wait until she was married because of her religion.

The last person I interviewed was an eighteen-year old male. He revealed that he would only have sex with a girl if he could carry on a good conversation with her. "I'd like to know a girl and be comfortable with her before I had sex with her," he said. "But this doesn't mean that I'd have sex with every girl I could talk to. I'd have to be attracted to her".

Even though not every teenager is choosing to have sex, many feel that their teenage years are the right time to experience sex. Some teens disagree with the idea of having sex before marriage, and others have decided that now is the time. All these views need to be acknowledged.

Graphic by: José Najera

The Media and Teen Stereotypes

Maria Acosta
 ISA Student

There are many stereotypes that exist in today's society. One of them concerns me greatly. That is the stereotype of teenagers being bad all the time. For example, the notion that teenagers join gangs and are always on the streets and commit crimes. This is a stereotype that is out there and one which many people take as a fact.

One of the key factors that promotes this is the media. The media usually only portrays the negative side of teenagers. The media portrays teenagers as violent criminals, which is not always the case. When I turn on the TV to watch the news, the stories about teenagers are of the violent crimes that they commit. This is news and we as citizens need to be informed, but I think negative portrayals shouldn't get so much attention. I hardly see the positive things that teenagers are doing in today's society. I rarely see shows where teenagers are being recognized for volunteering at their local hospitals, senior centers, or other places, or that teenagers are involved in after school programs instead of being out on the streets. I do not see news coverage on teens who have won scholarships to go to good colleges.

Since the media is so powerful and is such an influence on us, we should use it to our advantage. We should show the positive side of teenagers. I think that if we show the good things that teenagers are doing, it will encourage other teenagers to do the same. For example, I won a scholarship, and I got the chance to go to Washington DC for a week. I went there and I experienced what politics are all about and how the government works. It was a great experience for me. I toured around Capital Hill and all of its buildings. I went to the Supreme Court and to

the floor of Congress. I also went to the Smithsonian Museum. The best part was that I got the chance to attend an arrival ceremony for the president of Ghana. I also got the chance to see President Bill Clinton, the first lady Hillary Clinton, and Vice President Al Gore.

I think this is the type of positive teenage behavior that can be put on TV. I'm not saying this because I want to be on TV, but because I feel sharing my experience would have a positive impact on teens. Maybe it would encourage them to aim higher. I think that this type of media portrayal would make a difference in changing people's perspectives about teens. It would be seen more positively, and we would be taken more seriously.

JUVENILE INJUSTICE INDEX

- Media coverage of youth crime vs. reality
- Number of SF Chronicle articles about youth and crime in a 6 week period—74
- Percent of these articles depicting youth as perpetrators of crime—71.6%
- Percent of felonies actually committed by youth in San Francisco—9%
- Percent of violent crimes adults believe youths commit notionally—43%
- Percent of violent crimes actually committed by youth—13%
- Percent of violent crimes committed against youth by adults—60%
- Percent of articles making references to gangs—24%
- Percent of articles looking at poverty as a factor in crime—zero
- Percent of articles including calls for more incarceration of youth—20.3%
- Percent of articles suggesting societal solutions (i.e. anti-poverty, gun control)—9.4%
- Percent of articles including quotes by youth—18.9%
- Source: UNYTE/We Interrupt this Message (1998). *Juvenile Injustice: a youth conducted study of San Francisco Chronicle coverage of youth crime.*

Don't Judge Me by What I Wear

by José Najera
ISA Student



Photo of Leo Puni by Tom Quinn

"Don't Judge People By What They Wear," is what I want people to start thinking in their heads, because when I'm wearing my baggy clothes, and my baseball cap backwards, I don't want people to say "oh he's a bad kid. He must listen to that rap music." All rap is not just about gangsters in general, most is about day to day street life and what most people go through while being on the streets. People also think that rap influences teenagers to wear what we wear and how to act on the streets. But that's not true, because we as human beings decide and choose to wear what we want to wear and how we want to wear it. If we want to wear our hats backwards then that should not bother anyone else. We decide to wear our hats that way, because it is in fashion and we like that fashion. I think that it is cool to wear things in that nature. Teenagers don't say any-

thing negative to people who wear skin tight pants and shirts. It's just the way those people choose to dress.

I think that people should treat one another just like they treat books that they read in the library or at home; people should not be judged on their appearance. They should be judged on how well they know that person and what he/she stands for, represents, and how they act towards one another, not by what they wear. I think that's just plain ignorance and shows how smart that person is by saying that to someone else. People should be able to wear what they like to wear regardless what anyone tells them.

People should just mind their own business, so that the world would be a better place without stereotypes. People should be kind and friendly to everyone and maybe if people start doing that, they might just make a new friend that they would have never thought would be so smart and intelligent and share the same things in common.

Pushers Aren't Lovers

By Sharonna Character
ISA Student

"No, I told you I don't want to. No, Carrie I don't want to have sex!"

Now, this is a sound you rarely hear, girls pressuring boys to have sex, yet it does happen. Most people think that a girl pushing a boy to have sex is uncalled for. Some think that it is always the other way around, but that is not true.

"She was hearing rumors about having sex."

In this day and age, sex is becoming an everyday thing. When you walk down the streets you see sex advertised. On the radio, it's everywhere from condom commercials to "let me give it to you, oh baby let have sex" songs.

On tv all your favorite actors and characters are 'DO-ING IT', even Brandy/Moehsa almost had it, and the 15 going on 16 year old daughter on 7th Heaven. Dealing with all this plus the "oh baby you so fine" remarks you hear from young adolescent boys, is so overwhelming. How can anybody escape it? The truth is you don't—

either you do the deed or you don't. Right? Wrong. I wish it was so easy, then this wouldn't be a problem that's increasing.

"She went to school and bragged about it, I felt like a hoe."

There are so many people always telling you to do it. "If you love me you will do it. Everybody is doing it." But what if he is just not ready. Many people see it as a boy being less of a man or soft if he doesn't have sex. Yet two young men I interviewed have a different story to tell. The names have been changed to keep their identities a secret. Here is their conversation.

"I was with this girl named Mary. We had a cool relationship. I was loving it. She was so nice and sweet and hella funny, everything was cool until Mary started hearing rumors about us having sex.

"I hate her for what she did but I still love her"

"She didn't believe them, but she wanted to know why we weren't. When I told her I wasn't ready, she called me a punk. I told her that having sex means that she might get pregnant and I wasn't ready to be a father. My brother had two kids by the time he was 18. I didn't want to see myself like that. I have dreams. I told Mary this but she didn't want to hear it. I loved Mary. I didn't want to lose her, so I told her we would.

"That night we had sex, I wanted to make her happy. I was with her a year and almost ten months. The next day she went to school bragging about it. She told a lot

of our friends. I felt like a hoe. I didn't want to feel like that. I couldn't live like that so we broke up. Then she went around to our friends and said it wasn't good, I hated her for what she did but I still love her. It's the worst feeling being pushed if you're not ready, but I just couldn't tell her no".

"Well, my story is almost the same, but my girl was sexually active before she started messing with me, plus she was older and I told her that I was saving myself for my wife whenever I get married. So, she waited. Within 9 months after I told her that, she started pressuring me again. She told me that she was going to see someone else to satisfy her needs.

"I felt bad after it happened."

"I didn't want that to happen so I told her I would, but I was lying. I thought I could stall her, talk her out of it. Well, she came over and immediately started to kiss me and all that good stuff. Usually I stop her, but one thing led to another and well, I couldn't help myself; we had sex. I felt bad after it happened. I felt used, betrayed, but we're still together and she (got) pregnant. I love her and my baby, but I wish we would have waited."

This conversation shows that it does happen right here in sunny San Francisco. Not only to girls, but to boys too. I hope that if you get anything from this article it is that you shouldn't push—just wait. All good things come in time. Just because it seems to always happen to girls doesn't mean that it can't happen to guys because boys get pushed too—and pushers aren't lovers.

Graphic by Cindy Manriquez

Reading, Writing and Sex Ed

By Anton Postolnikov
ISA Student

Schools in California have certain rules they must obey, one of those rules is to require all students who wish to graduate from high school with a diploma to take and pass required classes. Some of these classes are: American Democracy, Driver's Education, and Sex Education—the most controversial one. Some critics argue that children should not be exposed to Sex Ed and that the government has to ban this from our schools. But many students, and even their parents, justify this class as a very good and needed one.

Most teenagers want to start having sex or already are. It is just not natural for all teens to wait until they are 18 to start exploring.

Teens aren't stupid and adults don't always know what we want or will do. Most teenagers want to start having sex or already are. It is just not natural for all teens to wait until they are 18 to start exploring. It is much wiser to expose them to all the facts, positive and negative, and then at least they will know the consequences. If they know about all the STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases), such as Gonorrhea and Syphilis, teens might think twice before doing something stupid. At least after taking the course they will know that such terrible diseases actually exist and they are at high risk of getting one. With this knowledge, if they continue to have sex, they might try to protect themselves by using condoms or other methods of protection.

If you are going to do something, it is wiser to know how to do it right and not try to do it as seen on TV. If teens have sex, it is beneficial for them to find out how to reduce their chances of getting a disease they don't want, by knowing how to have sex responsibly.

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High Schools Should Prepare Teens for Sex

Molly Salyer
ISA Student

As the world becomes more accepting of premarital sex, teenagers are taking it upon themselves to explore their options. Young people may not be getting all the information they need to make responsible decisions. If they choose to have sex, teens may not be aware of or prepared for the consequences.

In my experience, sex education was provided from fourth through eighth grade. Except for a promiscuous few, I don't know many people who are having sex that early. Unfortunately, by the time teens are actually starting to experiment with sex, the information and materials that they need to be responsible aren't given to them like anymore. Besides nine weeks of health education and biology class, there is no exposure to sex education in high school. These classes don't guarantee that they will focus on reproduction, STD's and the emotional consequences of intercourse.

High schools should take a cue from programs like *New Generations* health clinic on Potrero at 18th. The clinic provides young men and women with information about pregnancy, STD's, and HIV. The clinic also offers testing for pregnancy and diseases, in addition to providing treatment, counseling and referrals for people that are dealing with any of these issues. It is important



Molly Salyer

for schools to educate young men about their responsibilities and risks, and to help young women understand their bodies and take responsibility for their actions.

Sex education should be provided and required for freshmen and sophomores and counseling, information, and materials should be available for all grade levels. That way sexually active teens and others who are considering their options, can have the ability to make educated decisions.

Sex Inspiration?

Phi Phi Lau
ISA Student

Entertainment is a big factor in our lives. Television and movies are made for leisure and pleasure. Nowadays in the late twentieth-century, TV and movies have been directed towards a teen audience. There has been an expansion of nudity and sexual expression shown on TV and on movie screens. These programs may promote teenage sex and affect the way teenagers act.

What do you think of when you watch two people kissing up-close while they are tearing off their clothes? Some people may be interested or disgusted. But teenagers can learn things from programs. They may want to be and act like the make believe character they admire. The more sex displayed on programs, and the more teenagers watch it, the more teens may want to experience or involve themselves with sex or actions that lead to sex. They may become more sexually aware of themselves and of their body. Curiosity is an emotion that is hard to ignore, and the sexual actions on screens can influence teenagers interest of how sex feels.

Like Shakespeare's plays where violence was taken offstage, why can't sex be taken off the TV and movie screens? It is disgusting, distracting, and inappropriate to watch someone taking off their clothes. There are some movies where you can form and learn ideas, like how to sneak out at night and rob a bank (if you think you can have a chance). I don't think that parents would want their child to get any bad ideas and do something wrong by watching a TV program.

There are TV shows and movies that manage to avoid sex scenes, such as *The Truman Show*, *Rush Hour*, *The Simpsons*, and *Sister Sister*. These programs suggest

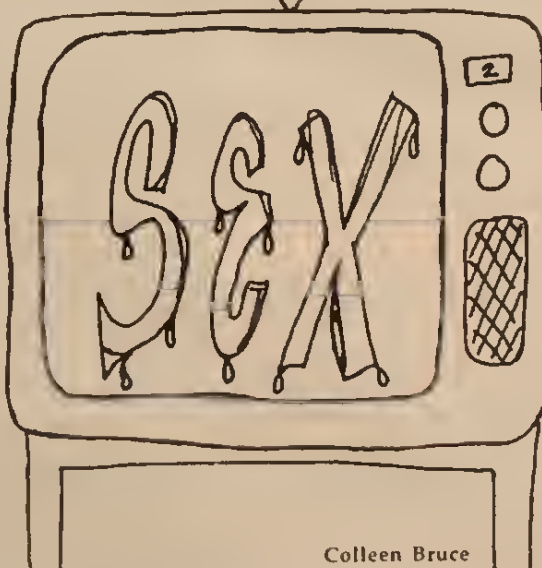
sexual actions, but the story predominantly focuses on the story plot and doesn't have blatantly crude jokes or distracting sex.

There have been teenagers who use the action of an actor or actress in a TV show or movie as an excuse for explaining the circumstances they are in.

For example, Ms. Wong who has a fifteen-year old daughter remarked, "One night my daughter stayed out late without calling me,

which made me sick with worry. When she came home, I grounded her for a week. She whined to me about how it was unfair and that she was too old to be grounded. Then she shouted to me that, "(this actress)— from —(this TV show)— never gets grounded." Just because we are teenagers, it doesn't mean that parents should give us total independence to do what we want to do whenever we feel like it. We have to separate TV make-believe from reality.

There are some programs that influence teens in a good way, such programs give advice or have good morals to learn from, but many programs influence teens in a bad way. Sexual actions should be erased from programs so teenagers are protected from any thoughts of having sex. The less shown, the less curious teenagers will be to have sex. Teens should learn all they need about sex in school, not at the movie theatre. The need to protect teens from harm is required, and promotion of sex can break through that fragile shield of protection.



Colleen Bruce

A Message to Parents

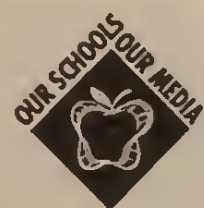
Sangeeta Jagdish
ISA Student

Today's teens have so many things on their minds, yet they don't know how to express their feelings and they don't know who to turn to. I think teens need to be more open with their parents. It's not that teens don't have people to talk to about their problems. In fact, they turn to friends and other people because they feel they can't trust their parents.

Often, when teenagers need their parents, the parents are not there or they don't understand their teen's problems. Sometimes parents even argue and ask why their teens have the problem in the first place, instead of helping them through that problem. Many teens feel like no one understands what it is like to be a teen. This leads to more problems and instead of solving their problems, a lot of teens run away from them.

Many teens run away from home or get into gangs. They feel like the gang members are like family and are there for them more than their own family. Teenagers start to believe that gang members understand what they are going through.

Teenagers can be hard to deal with because they have so much on their minds, but all they want is to find someone that can help them and give them the attention they crave. Most parents give up easily and that is when things begin to fall apart. You can't give up because then your kids will give up on you and turn to friends or strangers. Parents must be willing to talk to their children and spend more time with them in order for their kids to be more open with them. When you show your kids that you are willing to give the time, they will come around and be able to trust you again. It's not hard to get through to your teens. Once you start to get to know them and hear their problems, you'll find out that they're not that bad. You'll learn that all they needed was a little attention.



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The Dangers of Alcohol and Drugs

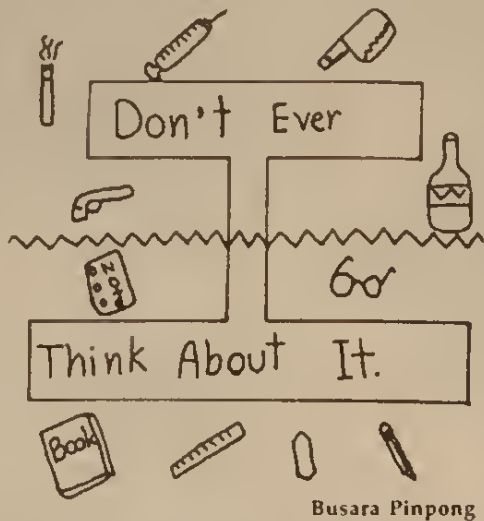
By Tsega Habtemariam
ISA Student

Alcohol can be very dangerous and harmful to our bodies and even our minds. Alcoholic beverages affect everyone from the first-time drinker to alcohol abusers. Alcohol can cause drowsiness and interfere with our attention and memory. However, it does affect each person differently. Like drugs, alcohol can be very addictive, so once you try using it, it may not be possible that you can easily stop using it. I think it would be safer if drug and alcohol users were more informed about the dangers of addictive substances. As a matter of fact, teenagers are not the only ones who battle addiction. As far as I am concerned, so do adults.

Drugs are also very harmful to our bodies and I believe the only way to prevent harmful effects, is to stop using them completely. We should also avoid trying them. Drugs will not do good to us. Although it may seem stupid, probably the best thing

you can do for someone you know or someone very close to you (like your friend or someone from your family) is to show how much fun you are having without drugs or alcohol. Try to show other ways to feel good without getting drunk or high. Another possible solution would be to subtly tell them that you have noticed a change in how they act, and that you have been wondering what is going on lately. In fact, you have the right to be concerned about their health.

The only thing I would advise to those teenagers who are addicted to drugs or alcohol is that they confide their problems in a school counselor or trusted adult. There are also hotline numbers in the phonebook that provide help. Drugs and alcohol are not the solution to the problems you are having. It will never help you solve your problems. I agree that whenever you drink or take drugs, it seems that you forget your problems, but you shouldn't rely on them to solve your problems.



A vibrant new mural at ISA celebrates the ISA Cobras. The mural was painted by Rich Cramer, Austin Bardsley, Francisco Josephson and Joseph Banderas in memory of Heriberto "Eddie" Ocasio. Artist Estria was a mentor for the project that was funded by the Ocasio family.

Art Techniques

By René Carrasco
ISA Student

I would like to see more people getting involved with art and artists. Art grabs my attention and is one of my interests. For my Social Action project, I volunteered with the Artists Television Access (ATA) in the Mission, to learn how they create the texture of their art and how they go through the creative process.

There I met new people and was very excited to work on my career. I am one step further in knowing artistic techniques. The organization helps you to reach your artistic goal in groups. That way you will learn how your point is getting across and determine what you want to produce.

What I did for the ATA was typing, answering phones, helping with production and giving my creative suggestions about what should go where and what doesn't go with a theme of a project. I like to draw, and that's

why I decided to be an artist. The Artists Television Access is basic video art that is shown on TV. They help an artist to do their best work. It's hard for artists, because they have to sketch many drafts in order for a work to look professional. I agree with people who think that becoming an artist will stop people from getting into trouble, because art is not boring.

Make a change with art. Check out these youth art and media programs:

Artists Television Access (A T A) — 824-3890

Film and video

Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center — 920-0590

Mural painting

MediaBomb — 749-3577

Help get youth voices on the radio

Sex—Now or Later?

By Cindy Manriquez
ISA Student

When do you know you are ready for Sex?

Have you ever been caught up in the heat of the moment? How do you know if he or she is the right person? Are you prepared? Are you ready for sex?

Recently, the discussion of sex seems to be only focusing on teenagers. Studies shows that more teens are getting pregnant, and as a result, society is putting a label on teenagers as "sex machines". When it comes to talking about sex, I relate better to teenagers, because older people who have passed their teenage years know what they want concerning sex. You teens out there, do you know what you want? Are you ready to make decisions?

There must be millions of reasons why people wait. It could be that they want to, they have not found the right person, or it could be because their traditions and/or

beliefs formed their decisions to wait until marriage.

For you people who have had sex at either a young age or an adult age, did you really think about it beforehand? It seems that many teens get caught up in the heat of the moment. Some people think with their heart and others with their mind. The teens that I spoke with said that when they had sex the first time, they thought about it with their heart, and that is why it was so special.

There are always two sides to a story. There is a girl's point of view and a guy's. Some girls feel that their virginity is very important and others feel it is not important. To some guys saving their virginity seems to be the last thing they care about in life and they want nothing more than to "Hit'em and Quit'em." Yet, some guys do think with their hearts and wait for the right girl.

There is more to sex than waiting or not waiting. There are consequences. There is a lot to worry about like, HIV, which lead to AIDS, STD's, and the biggest responsibility: A BABY. Whatever you choose in life—to wait or not—think hard about committing to sex before you decide to have SEX!

How I Learned by Giving Back

By Dante Cotton
ISA Student

Recently, for my social action project, I volunteered for 6 hours at my local park. I helped little kids with their homework, gave them snacks and acted as a "big brother" to them. I also taught them how to play basketball, baseball, and other sports. As I worked with many different kids, I learned how to be relaxed around kids and how to be patient with them. I'm glad that I went through this experience because it feels good to know that I can give back what I have learned to a little kid growing up.

The main thing that I wanted to let these kids know about was violence. This is an important topic that our world is facing. But, it was hard to keep the kids attention. While working with them on activities, they would get frustrated at things especially if they weren't able to run around and have fun. If I could do this project over again, I would. It was very fun and I learned a lot about myself while working with these kids. The Government class should really continue to do these types of projects.



Tsega Habtemariam

A Sarcastic Apology

I dedicate this poem to all those people who have been looked down upon by others.

Forgive me for *living*, my lord.
I would humble myself for you, your majesty.
I won't take offense if you feel the urge to
wash your eyes after looking at me.
Shall I grovel at your feet,
cast aside my dignity?
Hell no.

Forgive me, you pompous ass.

For shame!
You shall not put yourself above our fellowship.
Look not at us with disdain.
Cast not your judgment upon us,
for we are not yours to be judged.

Forgive me, you arrogant bastard,
for putting you in your place,
which is not above our heads.

What? You look at me for forgiveness?
I shall not give it to you.
We are not insects beneath your kind,
who look upon us with disgust.
It is you who disgust me, so forgive yourself,
if you are arrogant enough to do so.

—"Garion"

One-on-One

Rosa Mana
ISA Student

Should teens be more open? There are many sides to this question. But we have to look at the positive effects that being open has on our teens.

When our parents were growing up, they couldn't be very open with their own parents. This meant that they kept many secrets, which may have caused many problems. Some of these problems may have been made worse because they felt they had to lie to their parents. They could have felt guilty because of all the lying. Our parents weren't able talk about situations involving love, sex and drugs that they were facing. This lack of openness made it hard for them to solve their problems. They had to turn to their friends or handle it themselves. If a girl was to get pregnant she most likely ran away because of the fear of telling her parents and what they would do to her.

Since then, the times have changed. Many more parents are talking to their children about sex, drugs, violence and other issues that teens face. Today's teens are able to discuss with their parents the choices they want to make or have already made. These discussions are helpful to us. Although we think that our parents don't know anything, they really do. They have much more experience than we do. They can tell us the pros and cons of similar situations they once faced. In return, your parents hope that you listen to them and make the right choice.

Along with getting good advice and information from your parents, these discussions are a way to make your relationship with your parents a lot stronger. The openness makes it so you don't have to lie and keep secrets. In the long run, this is one of the best benefits. Although, right now we may just be thinking about the guy/girl in our life, our love interest may not always be there. Ten years from now who will be there giving you the support, advice, and constantly loving you? Your parents will be there for you.



photo by Ashraf Ali

Know Your RightsIII

Tony Coleman of the Third Eye Movement talks to the American Democracy Class about Youth Rights and Police Accountability

Don't Judge Me...



photo by Molly Salyer

ISA teens show off an array of styles as different as the kids themselves.

By Busara Pinpong
ISA Student

He wears a dirty shirt and trousers, he carries a weave bag, wears a ragged hat and has on boots. He stands at the corner of Divisadero and Haight Street. What do you think of when you read this sentence? I think this man is an unworthy person by looking at him the first time. I think many people think like me. Everybody is different, so each of us has a different way of thinking and a different way of dressing. In fact, after I interviewed him, I discovered that this man has a good job and a good education. Some people in San Francisco or in this country look at people who look different as if they are idiots, or sometimes, we even discriminate against them.

Many people judge others by looking at what they wear or the color of their skin. Although they are discriminated against, I have a lot of black friends and they all are nice people. I also have very good white

friends and step-relatives who are white. My mom remarried an American who is intelligent and kind hearted. He has taught me many things since I moved to San Francisco, more than my father taught me when I was young. It does not matter what kind of clothes I wear or what the color of my skin is, what really matters is what is inside my heart.

A person may wear nice clothes, but they could be a robber. Or, they could wear clothes without name brands and be a good samaritan. My mom is a hard worker who did not graduate from high school. She meets many people while she is working. One of her customers does not look nice, but he is really nice, generous, and gentle. My mom has taught me that we cannot judge people only by looking at them. What makes you a good person is how you act. If we didn't judge anyone by their outside appearance, there would not be any discrimination on this earth and everyone would live in peace.

Knowledge is Power, Not Bad Influence

Bedelin Sazo
ISA Student

Most people think that if teenagers learn about sex, their actions change and they will start to have more sex, but we as teenagers disagree. Adults think this because of the things we do. For example, we like to hang out with friends, and we like to go to parties and have fun. In my opinion, I think that not all of us are the same and we do things for different reasons.

Now, there are many teenage girls that have been or are pregnant. As a result, society thinks that once we learn about sex, we think we are adults and are going to have kids. I think it is good to know about sex because I think sex is something natural in our lives. I also think that sex comes to our lives in its time. When we think we are mature enough and grown enough to have sex, that's when sex comes into our lives. But sometimes, we do start sooner than we should.

Many people think that our actions are based on what we know about sex. Our actions are up to us. If we do something that we know is bad, it is our responsibility. We are responsible for our own actions and we are supposed to know which of our actions have big consequences. Some of us do things that we want to do and it is not because we know about sex.

Many teenage girls are pregnant because they don't know how to protect themselves. This is why I think it is good for us to know about sex.

Being open about sex with teenagers does not change our actions. I think that it is good for us to know about it. That way we will know how to protect ourselves from disease or we will learn how to prevent pregnancy.

Teen Suicide

Eddy Muller
ISA Student

There is some controversy over whether or not suicide is a major problem facing teens today. I believe it is a major problem, and it must be addressed to minimize the impact that suicide has on our teens every year. I would like to raise important questions surrounding teen suicide, like why is teen suicide such a major problem? Why does it seem like nothing is being done about it? I would also like to bring attention to this problem.

Some people believe that teen suicide is not a major problem. But, the fact remains that many teens die every year of the preventable death of suicide. Preventable death means that there is something that could have been done to prevent this death from occurring. We as a society must institute more solutions to the problem of teen suicide.

Calling suicide and crisis helplines can help.

The San Francisco Suicide Prevention has the following numbers to call if you or someone you know ever need to talk to someone.

- Suicide & Crisis Line
781-0500
- Drug Line
362-3400
- Mental Health Information and Referral
981-4700
- AIDS/HIV Nightline
434-AIDS

Communities and Our Environment

9th grade Environmental Science Project

Derrlyn Tom
ISA Teacher

When we think about the way we live and how we interact with our families, our friends, and our teachers, it's important to remember our planet and our own environment. We live in a time where we cannot afford to ignore our environment, its condition and what it means to the lives within our communities. In San Francisco, this is only too clear.

Statistics show that we, particularly those of us who live in the Bay View / Hunters Point neighborhood have the highest rate of breast cancer in the city. In the Bay Area as well as in the world, there is clear evidence of a

Mr. Quinn also came to a number of field trips and helped with discussions and ideas for this project.

Throughout the Spring Semester, we've been on many field trips to Bayview / Hunters Point, visiting many sites that either clean up toxic wastes or contribute to the pollution that permeates the community. In February, we went to the PG & E Power Plant in Bayview. In March, we returned to the neighborhood to visit the Wastewater Treatment Plant and participated in a "toxic tour" of Bayview / Hunters Point with Dana Lanza of Literacy for Environmental Justice. As Dana described, Bayview / Hunters Point has one of the highest rates of breast cancer in the entire Bay Area. It is also "home" to one of the largest superfund sites, the now abandoned Naval Shipyard. It is one of the most toxic sites in the entire nation and must now be cleaned up with taxpayer's money. It may take as much as 20 to 30 years for the clean-up. At the end of March, we went to the Transfer Station near Candlestick Park to learn how we get rid of all the garbage we produce in one day!! It's amazing how much we spend to get rid of



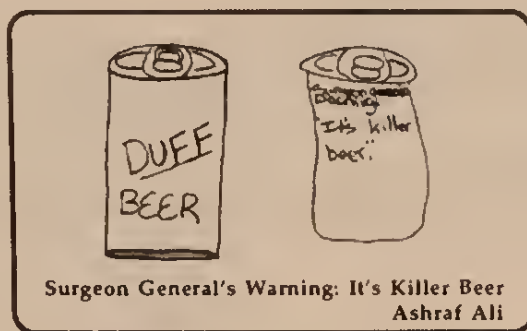
disproportionate siting of hazardous facilities in communities of color and low-income communities. In the past decade, an emerging environmental justice movement has brought the environmental movement "home" to the cities and to the neighborhoods which we serve.

This past semester, ISA teachers Ms. Tom, Ms. Bebelaar, and Ms. Pastor have been working with a dedicated group of 9th graders in addressing the environmental issues and concerns in Bay View / Hunters Point. All of our students at ISA are predominantly students of color and immigrants. As teachers, we are concerned that many of our students have very little if any of the skills required to raise a collective voice for their communities and their environment.

We also feel it is important to demonstrate to students that many communities of color were affected more disproportionately concerning their environment and their health. Because the project involves Ms. Bebelaar and Ms. Pastor, it integrates writing and art.



garbage that we should be recycling or never producing in the first place!! Our last field trip was to Fremont in the East Bay, to see a restored freshwater wetlands site. In May, we hope to return to Pier 98 in Bayview / Hunters Point to work on a restoration wetlands project. Before San Francisco developed into the city it is today, most of the coastal bay regions was wetlands. Wetlands are vital ecosystems for an array of natural plants and migratory birds. Overall, we've learned so much about our communities and our environment.



Contradictions of a War

Anton Postolnikov
ISA Student

In my opinion, the war in Yugoslavia is a show of control and power by NATO—and especially the United States. It seems they don't need the United Nations' permission for anything and are manipulating Europe in their favor. They justify their bombings by saying there is evidence of human rights violations. We are told the Yugoslav president (or tyrant, as President Bill Clinton calls him), doesn't want to comply with the peace process and instead wants to resolve the conflict by force. This might be true, but if you do more research you might find some awful truth that contradicts with this justification of violence.

Many people feel that killing innocent ethnic Albanians must be stopped. We can't have another tyrant like Hitler on the loose. It is true that killing innocent civilians is not permissible in any circumstance and must be stopped. Rape committed by Serbian soldiers against ethnic Albanian women living in Kosovo also serves as a reason why NATO should be involved.

But can we trust these sources of information? My answer is yes, but only to a certain extent. In my opinion the U.S. and mostly all NATO media sources are biased. For example, TV news broadcast stories that almost 20,000 women were raped by Serb forces, but when experts look into this number, they found a few hundred proven cases. In addition, I have a satellite at home and watch many different programs from around the world, including Serbian news. The stories they show contradict the ones seen here. I noticed that when the Serbian TV showed the wreckage of the spy F-117A plane that NATO admitted the loss. But I don't think they would ever admit it if it hadn't been shown on Serbian TV.

It seems that NATO doesn't want to make themselves look weak because then public opinion would turn against them. No matter whose news you watch, it is clear that this whole issue is disturbing to many people.



Busara Pinpong

Contributing to Gang Prevention

Sangeeta Jagdish
ISA Student

Grip (Gang Risk Intervention Program) is a program that works with teens involved with gangs or teens who are trying to stay away from gangs. This program was put together at Horace Mann Middle School by a man named Mr. Gallardo. Mr. Gallardo saw how many teens throw away their education and get into something (like gangs) that they will regret later. He put this program together as an alternative for teens.

Mr. Gallardo is always looking for other teens to come and help out with tutoring. I was able to do this. It was an interesting place to be because I was able to help these teens with homework and any other problems they had. I could relate to them very well. I have a family member that was in a gang and I was able to tell them about the fear he put his family through. These teens were able to work with me because I was open to them.

Gang violence is something that many people want to end. Because of gang violence, stores are robbed, kids are terrified of going outside, and many innocent people have lost their lives. It's a bad way to live. I was able to reach a teenager and prevent them from joining a gang. By preventing one person from joining, I felt like I did a lot of good for the community.

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ISA Student Helps Local Teens

Cindy Manriquez
ISA Student

In the world today, pregnancy is a big issue because many young girls are getting pregnant. I worked at the New Generation Clinic which is a non-profit organization that helps girls with pregnancy tests and questions they may have. The Clinic also has after-school programs that teach young women about pregnancy and the diseases that are out there. The Clinic also goes to schools and teaches students about sex and how to protect themselves.

I helped the local problem by going out into the community and distributing condoms to teens. I feel that giving out protection for sex helps teenagers with a big decision that they will have to make. Some teens may be too shy to go to a clinic and ask for condoms. Even though condoms are only 89% safe, they can save people from disease and pregnancy. I was glad to help the community.

Working with the organization, I learned so many things about sex that I didn't know before, like the specific types of sexually transmitted diseases. I also learned about abortion. I felt good going into the community and giving out condoms, knowing that I helped prevent a young couple from getting a disease, or from bringing an innocent child into their lives. I had a lot of fun volunteering at the New Generation Clinic!

The following are some centers around the city that provide testing and health care services to teens.

Drop-In
No Appt. Necessary/Low Cost

City Clinic
356 7th St.
487-5500

Balboa Teen Health Center
1000 Cayuga Ave., Room 156
469-4512

Larkin Street Youth Center
1044 Larkin St.
673-0911

Appointment Basis/Call First
Medical/Sliding Scale Fee

Potrero Hill Health Center
648-3022

Chinatown Health Center
705-8500

Planned Parenthood
441-5454

UCSF Teen Clinic
476-8627

Finding Your Purpose as a Young Adult

José Najera
ISA Student

For my Social Action project, I volunteered at my neighborhood youth center—the Bernal Heights Precita Park. I worked at Precita Valley Community Center (P.V.C.C.), helping prevent the harassment and crime problems that go on in my community.

At P.V.C.C. I was part of a boy's group where we got the chance to have special guests come in and speak to us about rape, drugs, laws and about how to have safe sex. But the main problem in the community is that young men and women are harassed constantly, not just by cops, but by people being nosey and thinking that young kids are punks. People automatically call the cops on kids because they are supposedly "suspicious" and "mischievous." Instead of talking with us and getting to know us, adults like to have the police around to try and keep us youngsters away from hanging-out in the neighborhood.

At the P.V.C.C., youngsters realize how childish they act and how their actions can contribute to negative stereotypes of them. They also learn the right and wrong way to behave, which will make our neighborhood safer. By participating in the boy's group, I learned a lot about how laws work and what I have the right as a youth to do in San Francisco. Learning about the law changed the way I look at and think about cops. Knowing the law, will also help me to stay away from trouble.

Anyone can participate in the boy's group, you just have to be devoted and from 14-18 years of age. I know I enjoyed all the activities I did at the P.V.C.C. and after learning what I did, I feel like I really have a purpose in this world as a young adult.

Speak out against the criminalization of youth!
Get involved with a youth action group.

3rd Eye Movement — 951-4844 ext. 23

Police brutality/Know your rights

Y-MAC - Youth Making A Change — 239-0161

Youth advocacy and activism

Olin — 709-11 07

Build schools not prisons! Demand ethnic studies programs

La Raza Centro — 575-3500

Police in the schools

ACLU — 621-2493

Fight the Juvenile Crime Initiative



Randy Cortez pictured in photo

How much power does music have over our actions?

Does Music Influence the Way We Act?

Randy Cortez
ISA Student

When we youngsters are walking home, waiting for the bus or going somewhere, we hear old folks saying, "Thank God, when I grew up it wasn't like this. These days kids are corrupt, thanks to their parents, the people they hang around with, and the music they listen to."

HOLD UP! What do you mean we are corrupted by the music we listen to? People nowadays are trippin'! Although some young people listen to R&B, pop or heavy metal, most young people listen to hip-hop or rap. The music we listen to helps us express ourselves. Rap or hip-hop is a culture. We dress the way we like with baggy pants, big shirts, baseball caps to the side, and boots. We dance the way we like—break dance, slow or freaky.

Adults stereotype young kids when they see us wearing baggy pants or listening to rap. They quickly think we are thugs who have been in juvy or in jail. I'm not saying that we are all innocent, but most people don't live out the lyrics of a song. As young people we listen to what we like, just like adults listen to what they like. You would be surprised at how many people listen to rap. When we listen to rap, we listen to it because we like the music and because it talks about what we see in everyday life on the streets, in school, or in our lives. Some people can relate to some lyrics of some songs because they have been through the same situations.

I know I can relate to a bunch of them, like "Jealousy" by IMP. In the song, they talk about how they should be happy because they now have money and are doing

well. Instead of being happy, they are brought down by people talking behind their backs. These people used to be their friends but are now gone because of their jealousy. I can also relate to other artists and their lyrics, like 2Pac (still bumping yo' tracks dogg).

Some people say the lyrics are "too slang" and not appropriate for young people. Snoop Doggy Dogg says in one song, "...187 on an under cover cop"—which literally means "kill a police officer." Despite its literal translation, these words simply mean that Snoop's encounters with the police weren't very good. A young listener would only go and cut class and kill a cop after listening to this song if they had some screws loose in their head.

Not all hip-hop is bad. Some songs are personal and talk about how the rappers' lives used to be, while other songs are meant to be played at parties. Lauren Hill is a very positive hip-hop artist who has received many industry awards and nominations. She is proof that hip-hop is not just for thugs and has put rap on the map.

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VOLUNTEER AT ISA— Call (415) 695-5866

Tutors and Study Hall Monitors—Community and parent volunteers are needed for English, Math and other subjects after school and during lunch. Please call ISA's main office.

College and Parent Center Volunteers needed. Please call Maria Twyman, PTSA president at (415) 282-4987.

Artists!—Give tours of your workplace for students interested in careers in graphic, digital, and fine arts. Teach workshops on Adobe Illustrator or give sculpture demonstrations. Please call art teacher Tiana Pastor at ISA.

Contribute to youth athletics! Contact the ISA P.E. teacher. She needs help with: a teacher's aide, grant writing, fundraiser coordination for P.E. and Athletics, and publishing a sports newsletter

Fundraisers for the Arts to help get artists in the schools. Please call Tiana Pastor.

Volunteers needed to help proofread Milestones for the Millenium student calendar. Apple Laserwriter II printer repair needed. Please call English teacher Judy Bebelaar.

DONATE NEEDED MATERIALS —CALL (415) 695-5866

Books and Art Supplies—8 copies of *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya; 25 copies of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou; 9 copies of *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe; 20 copies of *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton; 16 copies of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*; Art Supplies including markers, poster board and glue sticks. Please call English teacher Michelle Khazai at ISA.

Books—Copies of *Beloved* and *Sula* by Toni Morrison. Please call Judy Bebelaar.

Cables and Mice and Hard Drives, Oh My! Various computer equipment needed.

Classroom Supplies—Pens and pencils, post-its, file folders, etc.

Please call Technology Resource teacher Weston.

Classroom Supplies—Cabinet, pencil sharpener, computers and math software. Please call math teacher Thuy Doan.

Classroom Supplies—Hole punch, PC computer and CD-ROM dictionary. Please call social studies teacher Koby Pakar.

Art Supplies—Light box, art books, Adobe PageMill and Illustrator Software, wrack or shelf for portfolios, drawing paper and canvas, Mac printer, desktop photocopier, still life objects. Please call art teacher Tiana Pastor.

Library Media Center Supplies—Mouse pads, printer cartridges (call for types), colored/white paper, glue, gluesticks, colored pencils, crayons, felt tip markers, rulers, scissors, bookmarks and small prizes for book contests. Please call Library Media teacher Linda Guitron.

Get Involved!!

Listen Up!'s goal is to increase communication and collaboration between ISA and its community.

YOU can:

- ✉ Write articles or letters to *Listen Up!* (mail submissions to: Pia Guerrero, Our Schools, Our Media, 741 30th Ave., San Francisco CA, 94121)
- ✉ Help a teacher to schedule guest speakers or field trips
- ✉ Donate time or equipment to the school to help students achieve
- ✉ Provide money for *Listen Up!* — help subsidize the cost of printing and distributing. Each edition costs approximately \$500.

Checks should be payable to "ISA - Listen Up!".

Thank you!!

(call Pia Guerrero at 831-6142 for information)

✉ Help students lay out the publication — donate your time, skills, and artistic eye!

(call 831-6142 for information)

✉ Coordinate volunteers interested in working with ISA to improve teaching and learning (call 831-6142 for information)

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Vanessa Jackson, transfer student to San Francisco State

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information 1-800-433-3243.

Thanks for Listening!

Since the last issue of *Listen Up!*, several community members have volunteered with and donated materials to ISA. The ISA staff and students thank you for your contributions!

Read *Listen Up!* on-line on the
Our Schools,
Our Media Website!

www.osom.org



Visit the City College website at: <http://www.ccsf.cc.ca.us>

The Mission Youth Soccer League Needs You!



Since 1992 the Mission Youth Soccer League has provided at risk youth ages 5 to 18 with structured recreational activity, tutorial support and in many cases a surrogate family. MYSL started as a good idea by a few people concerned about rising youth violence. With a lot of heart and a whole lot of energy we got the League up and running.

Now seven years later, MYSL has taken on a life of its own - sometimes it seems we've succeeded too well.

We've grown from just 15 teams with 350 young soccer players to 50 teams with over 1,000 kids. It's a big effort. To keep it going and growing our all-volunteer organization really needs your help. If you want to get Mission District youth out of gangs, away from drugs and on the right path, now's the time to pitch in.

Our year-round activities are in immediate need of:

- Volunteers, especially women, willing to serve as coaches and volunteers to co-ordinate office management and league logistics.
- Transportation for teams to and from games.
- All kinds of soccer equipment, including shoes, shin guards, uniforms, balls and nets.
- Local businesses to sponsor individual teams.
- More girls ages 6 to 10 who want to play soccer.
- Monetary contributions to pay for insurance, tournament registration fees and other league expenses. (Make Checks payable to Mission Youth Soccer League)

If you can help in any way contact Jose 648-8049, Mark 647-1331 or Andy 824-8114 or write to

Mission Youth Soccer League
c/o New Mission News
777 Valencia
San Francisco, CA 94110



JUNE

Mission District
CalendarComposed by Sarah Bardeen
Design by Navarrete-Alazán

4

FRIDAY

FuckPride – I guess that is, have pride in those whom you screw. In the loving way. Luna Sea celebrates queerness without the sanction of "official" Pride month with cutting edge art, music, dance & spoken word. They'll fly in the face of Pride and what it means to be proud while remaining sexily, radically, unabashedly queer. Featuring Meliza Banales, Lisa Hill, Happy Hyder, and more. 2940 16th #216-C. 8 pm. 863-2989.

Obscure Conundrum – The LAB titillates our taste for the incomprehensible with the exhibit "Conundrum," a three-person exhibition exploring struggle inherent to "navigating physical and psychological barriers." ReACTION, tonight's performance, features short conceptual performances by artists in response to "Conundrum." \$7-10 sliding scale, exhibit through June 12. 8 pm, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

5

SATURDAY

I Scream Social – Something funny's going on when the city invites ALL San Franciscans to an ice cream social with city department heads. Show up and lampoon Muni through a mouthful of rocky road, settle your differences with the DPW over a coke float. Mayoral re-election tricks aside, let's not forget Joan Jett-Blakk is now in the mayoral race. Brown cow, anyone? 10 am-3 pm. Golden Gate Park Band Concourse.

Community Crooning – Our own homegrown Community Music Center students flaunt their fly style in a free community concert. Feast on the fruit of two CMC programs: the Inner City Young Musicians and the Comprehensive Musicianship Program. 11 am. Free. 544 Capp. 647-6015.

Bust the Bus Man – Taking a cue from Czar Willie, the new general manager of Muni Micheal T. Burns opens his doors for reserved spots (5-15 minutes) today to speak with the public about PT in SF. Let him know you love that classic logo, *finally*. Call 923-6199 for an appointment.

Mi Vida Loca/Mi Arte Loco – Local magazine for La Raza *Mi Vida Loca* puts on a show of fierce, ultrabaroque ballpoint pen & pencil art by homeboys and girls from all over the southwest—many in prison. Intricate, iconographic, and fatalistic, the art glorifies gang-banging and the Virgin of Guadalupe. Free. Galeria de la Raza. Opening reception with poetry reading today, 4-7 pm. 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

A Raucas Caucos for a Cause – In an attempt to keep activists running around the city after free meals and desserts today, the Neighborhood Parks Council adds to the civic feeding frenzy with today's Parks Caucos. Masticate on the state of city parks and how to improve them from 8:30 am-3:30 pm. 600 Embarcadero @ Brannan. Free, breakfast and lunch served. 538-1790.

6

SUNDAY

Maya New Year Celebration – Drag your duff off the futon and get to the Sunrise Ceremony in Dolores Park with Maya Priestess Maria del Carmen Tuy from Guatemala. You can't have a truly spiritual experience without a little suffering. Followed by Marimba, Maya and Aztec Dances, human sacrifice optional. Sponsored by Grupo Maya. 6-10 am in Dolores Park, free. 824-2534.

Animal Wingding – Paws for a moment at the year's warmest, fuzziest street fair, the SPCA Parade of Life. Pet McMahon hosts the Pet Star Search for the best singing pet and the canine agility course. Coddle your pooch at the Doggy Drive-in movie center (no necking), or patronize Mystic Wendy, the paw reader. Also check out Scratch, the kinetic dog sculpture, and more oddities. 9 am-4 pm at 2500 16th St. 554-3058.

Dub Mission – Our fave DJs Sep and Maneesh the Twister slap some non-vapid vinyl vignettes together, tonight with special guests violinist Pistol Pete and Dr. Ware, live in the mix. 10 pm, \$5. At the Elbo Room, 647 Valencia.

7

MONDAY

\$100 Weirdo – It doesn't take much talent but Jack Thomas, currently in the market for some decent fellatio, (grlrs? anyone "up" for it?) is showing silent black & white porn from the 30s, 40's and 60's at the Tip Top Inn. Obscenely sexual pornographic writings will be read in tandem, and an obscene amount of money will be charged. 3001 Mission. \$100 cover. Midnight. 824-6486.

Sinister Banalities – Inspired by the Darwin awards for the most ridiculous deaths, painter Michaela Pavlatova just finished a series of works exploring the idea that your most banal moment could be your last, and that the most innocuous objects can turn banality into tragedy. Hey, is that carrot looking at you funny? ODC Gallery, 3153 17th St. Through July 16.

The Ethical Slut – Thank god for "process!" Otherwise, how could you boink every booty making eyes at you and still have friends in the morning? Wondering what steps to take toward a less monogamous future? Let authors Dossie Easton & C. Liszt explain it all. 7:30 pm, Modern Times. 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

8

TUESDAY

From the Page to the Stage – New play read on stage at Venue 9: Tina, a Latino lesbian, wakes up and finds herself transformed into Groucho Marx. How to stay gay when you're Groucho? Shouldn't be hard. See how this play by Tina D'Elia resolves the war. "Groucho: A Day in the D'Elia Soup." Venue 9, 252 9th St. 8

pm, Tuesdays. \$6-10. 289-9000.

Bikes, Trikes and the Likes – Bikes and bicyclers and bicycleras are celebrated in "Return of the Scorcher", the highly-praised documentary exploring bicycle culture, and the history of the big wheel. Ted himself will be on hand to answer your deepest, darkest bike questions. This is the SF Bike Coalition's movie night/general membership meeting. Free. Call 431-BIKE for more info. 7 pm, 1839 15th St. @ Guerrero.

Not Tales of the City – Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint keeps June interesting by presenting "The Duboce Triangle," a series of gay soap operas written by local playwrights. From "Can I See Your Briefs?" to "Holes of Glory", the schtik might run thin...or long...Tuesday & Wednesday all month, 8 pm, \$10. 3583 16th St. at Market. 861-7933.

9

WEDNESDAY

F'Sheezy – Wondering what F'Sheezy means in youthspeak? Our best interpretation is: a sucka-free mix of young turntablists, MCs, spoken word artists, and dancing which promises to be hella tight. Roughly that, anyways. F'Sheezy is held in conjunction with open houses at Southern Exposure and other galleries. 6-9, free. 401 Alabama @17th St. 863-2141.

Dyke O'Drama – ATA celebrates Pride month by showing four lesbian short films about couples cruising and coming out. 8 pm, \$5, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

Hepatitis C Support Project – Davies Medical Center presents Jeff Getty, patient rights activist, speaking on disease-related activism as it relates to Hep C. Learn about the disease and why you need to get involved. 6:30 pm. Corner of Castro/Duboce, in North Tower Auditorium.

10

THURSDAY

Queens of Country – Barn-raisin' cowgirls spin country, bluegrass and mountain music for the pavement-weary at Radio Valencia. 7:30 pm. 1199 Valencia. 826-1199.

Dueling DJs – Local spoken word bad girl Beth Lisick presents the "Mission Talent Show" featuring Fantasy (live music) and...well, no one's sure what else. Come and lind out! 9 pm, \$5-10 donation. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia.

11

FRIDAY

Vessel – Holy or otherwise, this is a night of dance works by three women depicting women's oppression, exploitation and...strength! Surprise. Eleven women in the Strong Current dance company use extreme physicality, raw choreography, and breath-taking partnering without the intervention of y-chromosomes. Also June 13. 8 pm at 3316 24th St. \$13-15. 826-4441.

Sistah Speak – Black Dykes in the house at Luna Sea tonight, speaking clear, loud and proud! Poetry, spoken word, rhythm and song by Ntombe Howell, Michelle T. Clinton, Rev. Gay Collette Jackson and more. Luna Sea. 2940 16th St. #216-C. 8 pm. \$10-15. 863-2989.

12

SATURDAY

Fire Arts Festival – The Crucible celebrates the creation of art through fire. Demonstrations, fire performances, and exhibits of lacuity work punctuate the day. The Crucible serves people interested in gaining employment skills and making artistic objects. 7:30 pm, 1035 Murray, Berkeley. Donations. 510-843-5511.

Cultured Kiddies – Mission Cultural Center brings tots up to cultural literacy with a kids' movie series, followed by a puppet show and workshop. Free. 12 noon, 2868 Mission. 821-1155.

Sabado Infantil – Presenta pelicula infantil para ninos. La maestra Nortia Gonzalez ensenara titeres y como hacerlos. 12 noon, 2868 Mission. 821-1155.

Urban Stonehenge – Urban Stonehenge erects it's mighty mass with the help of modern druids Food Not Bombs. Tonight's premise is an anti-war café night. Free dinner, music, poetry, and speakers on Yugoslavia—could be a focal point for the anti-war movement. 7 pm, 25th and Wisconsin. For more info call Clare at 647-5819.

13

SUNDAY

If It Ain't Baroque... – CMC advanced students hold the sixth annual Baroque Hour: One hour a year devoted to dusties such as Bach, Handel, Mozart and Beethoven. Don't worry if you're baroque, it's free. Heh. 4 pm. 544 Capp. 647-6015.

15

TUESDAY

Two Tall Blondes – Local diva poets Daphne Gottlieb and Tarin Towers read at Modern Times, in celebration of Daphne's first full-length book *Pelt* being published. 7:30 pm. 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

16

WEDNESDAY

Poesia y Literatura – presenta a Fernando Pessoa el gran poeta Brasileiro presentado por "Chelis" Lopez. 7 pm, free. 2868 Mission. 821-1155.

Free Food – Tonight is the opening of "Sin Casa," an exhibition of work by Victor & Carlos Cartagena. Opening reception for the artists is from 6-8 pm. At Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-ARTS.

17

THURSDAY

Mr. & Ms. Safe Gay Latino – Don your latex and your bike helmet for tonight's performance contest, as many undoubtedly talented individuals compete to become Mr. or Ms. Safe Gay Latino/a. Probably best to call for guidelines. 7-10 pm, \$5. 648-3702.

Dance on that Wacky Net – Dance, video and the internet. Is it a recipe for staged multi-media disaster or...well, this is Liss Fain Dance's trial run of a video/dance project which, if all this post-modernism holds together, will be followed up with an internet simulcast performance sometime next spring. So why leave the house? Through June 20, 8 pm. \$16. 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Gay Cannes/Gays Can – That's right, time for queers on film again. The SF International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival corrupts our cinemas and captures our imaginations, and confirms why we stay in the Bay Area through June 27. The lineup of films looks impressive, to say the least. At the Castro and Victoria Theatres, and Roxie Cinema. Call for a program; tonight is opening night. 703-8663.

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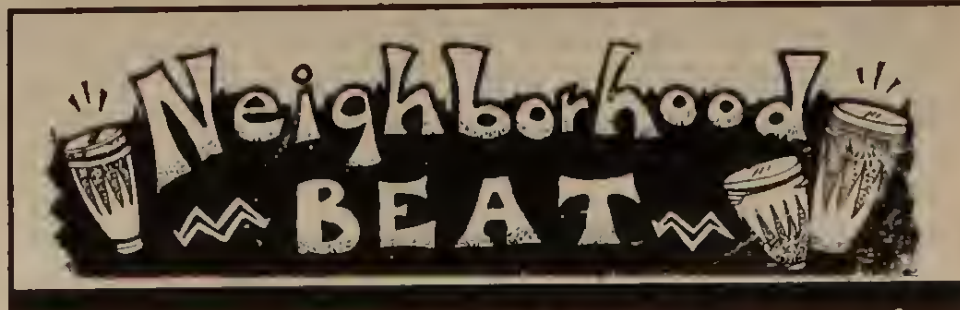
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Opnet students Melissa Marcos and Eric Huynh Photo by Scott Braley

OpNet means opportunity for youth

By Sonya Geis

Asked what he wants to be doing in ten years, Edgar Diaz thinks only a minute before deciding that he wants to co-own a multimedia company with his brother Hector. The 24-year-old Salvadoran immigrant is temping at a bank right now, but he got a taste of the multimedia world by working for nearly a year designing and maintaining web pages, doing HTML coding, and creating graphic art for Internet start-up companies. Both Diaz brothers grew up on 16th Street in the Mission, both are artists, and both learned to apply their talents in the lucrative South of Market cyber world through the OpNet youth training program.

Businessmen David Ellington and Dan Geiger established the program in 1997 to allow low-income 17 to 25 year-olds to access the opportunities the exploding computer industry offers high-skilled workers. Ellington explains that "OpNet creates a way for folks who don't normally have that chance, to get high wage jobs." The program partners with the Bay Area Video Coalition, which provides four weeks of classroom training. The program then places its trainees in four-month internships at high-tech companies in San Francisco, to complement classroom instruction with work experience.

Asked how OpNet differs from other youth employment programs, Ellington is quick with a response. "OpNet is unique

because it's paid," he said. "Other programs don't pay you money while you learn." Program participants take home \$10 per hour, half is paid by their employer and half is subsidized by the program.

While the internship component of the program does not necessarily translate into a job in the industry, its intention is to prepare its graduates to find work for themselves. "[The internship] doesn't guarantee you a job, but it guarantees you connections to a job," said program participant Timmy Hoang.

OpNet recruits low-income youth that have graduated from high school and have some basic computer skills. Of 63 graduates from the program so far, 22 were recruited from the Mission District. The program also targets youth from Bayview/Hunter's Point, the Tenderloin, and the Western Addition.

Edgar Diaz was not the only program graduate to have big dreams for his future in the multimedia industry. At a graduation ceremony for OpNet participants on May 13, 21-year-old Leo Guerrero said he hoped one day to be "the lead designer at a multimedia company." And 20-year-old Richard Vargas stated enthusiastically "Graphic design is where my passion is at! And you can quote me on this," he added with a swagger, watching carefully to make sure his words were copied verbatim, "I will be the best graphic designer there is in the industry."

Pictures of an Inhibition

By Sarah Bardeen

The Crushing Spiral Ensemble, brainchild of bassist Matt Small, is the latest arrival on the Bay Area's jazz scene. Composed of a number of Bay Area musicians whose credits range from Bulgarian folk fusion to progressive rock, CSE is music for the anxious, smoky-voiced, nostalgic-for-you-don't-know-what generation. Their debut album, *Pictures of an Inhibition*, features all-original compositions that veer between cartoonish drunken staggers and lovely, meandering melodies.

Fortunately, *Inhibition* avoids the

pratfalls of avant-garde jazz. The bass/drums/clarinet combo with violins and trombone thrown in could spell sonic disaster but it doesn't. There is chaos and cacophony, but it's used sparingly and with control. Chaos builds imperceptibly, out of the simplest of melodies, and the listener only recognizes a crescendo when the song suddenly dips back to the original melody. The album can be difficult, but it avoids the ironic self-awareness (so trendy right now) without devolving into sentimentality or losing its edge.

The music is solid, with compelling drums and tight group solos which demonstrate clear aesthetic understanding between the musicians. And the whole CD



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is held together by Small's otherworldly bass playing, which manages to be simultaneously pervasive, distinctly original, and understated. For a better look at Small's playing, skip to the end of the CD for a series of solo bass "vinyets." Technical feats aside, the vignettes give

the impression of a mind working out something oblique via the strings, frenzied conversation and frayed nerves, false starts, inhibitions and all.

To order the CD, call Matt Small at (510) 444-4855 or look in local record stores.

RAZA SPOKEN HERE



by La Huerfana

Calaca Press' new poetry CD, *Raza Spoken Here*, features a talented lineup of Chicano poets and promises to be the beginning of a long running success. Produced by Brent Beltrán, the CD starts off with *The Taco Shop Poets Manifesto*, a cool multi-voiced piece written and performed by The Taco Shop Poets. Adrián Arancibia, Adolfo Guzman Lopez, Tomás Riley and Miquel Angel Soria deliver this jazzified Chicano classic over a sultry base line thumped down by Sergio Hernández. The Taco Shop Poets are a community-based poetry and music collective based in San Diego. Founded in 1994, they have performed their brand of chorizo tonguefire at countless taco shops on both sides of the border.

Olga Angelina García Echeverría, a Chicano writer and poet from East LA, stands out with her piece *Sonia on Hope Street*. This powerful testament of life in the barrio is perhaps the most truthful poem to be heard in the genre of Chicano spoken word. Calaca Press will release her first collection of poetry in late 1999, and if *Sonia* is just a glimpse of what she can deliver -you'll want to get a copy of her book.

Two other talents to watch out for are Sandra C. Muñoz and the Bay Area's own Daniel Sánchez-Glazer. Muñoz performs *For my sister who thinks I'm unhappy because I, like her, don't wear a size 6 and*

Free Metal Woman which both liberates the word and the listener from feminist cliché. Her style is simultaneously profound and funny. Sánchez-Glazer, one of the younger performers on the CD holds his own with *I Hear a Poem Calling Me*, and *Heaven for Eight Dollars*. His first piece is a refreshingly exciting poem done in true espanglish style, evoking cultural dream-like sequences. *Heaven* is a bone-chilling poetic essay on street and drug culture.

Raza Spoken Here also features Manuel J. Vélez, The Rasquachi Performers, Elba Rosario Sánchez, Christian Ramirez, Chuy Quintero and Trago Amargo. The CD sports full color cover art by Chicano Park muralist Victor Orozco Ochoa and sells for only \$9 plus shipping and handling. With the subtitle, *poesia chicana volume 1*, we are given the hope of a continuing contribution to contemporary literary arts by Chicano poets who generally have been abandoned by mainstream publishers in this country.

Calaca Press is a Chicano owned small press dedicated to preserving and promoting Latino culture by publishing Raza writers and artists. Calaca Press is an organization that will help educate and raise everyone's consciousness by providing literature that is relevant and affordable.

To order *Raza Spoken Here* write Calaca Press, PO Box 620786, San Diego CA 92162 or call them at (619) 231-9210.

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San Francisco Magazine
for featuring in its June edition
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"The leader of the pack" and her guardian angel. Photo by v e miller

Even more enchanting

Popular Valencia Street art spot gets bigger and better

by vmiller

In the past, I've always been a little bit uneasy with my visits to Encantada. There was so much stuff jam packed from floor to ceiling into the modest storefront - most of it of a friable breakable composition. I was always afraid an inadvertent step would initiate that age old shopkeepers' dictum of "You break it, you buy it." I came really close to purchasing my own personal pre-Columbian ceramic jigsaw puzzle on several occasions while idly browsing among the contemporary Mexican art finds that owner Mia Gonzalez had brought back from her latest buying spree down south. During Encantada's many exhibition openings I was sure some of the inventory would be trampled as overflow crowds elbowed for position near the guacamole dip.

But fortune has smiled on the good people that run this, well, enchanting gallery/gift store, meaning that none of the more oafish of their supporters has knocked over enough merchandise to prevent Encantada from acquiring an adjacent storefront and doubling in size.

At last month's expansion celebration I was expecting there to be twice as much space. There was more space, but I hadn't reckoned on Mia stocking a whole lot more stuff into it. Some of the pieces are quite big like the life size Judases, a must for any big-time celebration of Semana Santa. There were also some of the most elaborate examples of Mexican iconic ceramic work I've ever seen, including one of Noah's Ark with dozens of paired critters, and another involving five mermaids all with the faces of old style porcelain dolls. "That's a particular style developed in Ocuiocho," said Mia, referring to the mermaids. "Isn't it just wonderful?"

Mia knows the creative, cultural and economic history of everything in the place. She has genuine and contagious enthusiasm for each item, which is not unrelated to the fact she selected each one on forays across a dozen Mexican states. I

sometimes think she can't wait to make a sale, not so much because there's rent to be paid and groceries to buy, but because each sale brings her that much closer to another 8,000 mile shopping spree. The shopping treks are one of the things that make Encantada affordable. Shipping costs are steep. "We don't want to kill everybody financially so we just go down there and load up the truck ourselves," Mia said.

"What kind of a truck do you take," I asked. "Oh you know, a really big one," Mia answered evincing a Luddite disdain for the automobile. "My husband does most of the driving," she added, touching on a point essential to Encantada's success - the extended family business. Her husband, Richard, is not only designated road warrior but also did a lot of the expansion work. Both Mia's mother and daughter pitch in behind the counter, and when Mia and Richard are barnstorming from pueblo to pueblo deep in Morelia or Michoacan, there's a whole platoon of compadres and comadres seeing to the operation in San Francisco. "I guess I'm the leader of the pack," Mia said assessing her role in the Encantada scheme of things. Nobody this side of Twin Peaks is likely to dispute that.

With the bigger digs come bigger plans, these include commissioning Mexican artists to execute specific designs. So next year there may be a Bill Clinton or Ernesto Zedillo Judas on sale. There are also plans to sell both furniture and wrought ironwork in the near future. Encantada is also beginning to feature a few Mexican antique collectibles. In this line, Mia showed me some ceramic animal banks from the 30's which I absent mindedly tap-tapped with my finger nails to figure out what they were made, instead I learned that really delicate stuff is kept on high shelves to keep out of reach of people like me.

Now that the gallery space has room for more art you can expect the Christmas and Day of the Dead shows to be even bigger and better than before. Throughout the year more artists will be exhibiting their work at Encantada, including a touring group show from Mexico City.

Currently showing at the gallery is an intriguing drawing and watercolor series by Celia Rodriguez based the legend of "La Llorona." Watercolor is an unusual choice of medium for the intense, emotionally charged subject matter of a child murderess, but Rodriguez, who has been an art instructor at UC Berkeley, Stanford and Laney College, makes it work. "Why did you decide to show these particular pieces," I asked. "Well, Mia came over to my house went through my portfolio and said 'OK, I want this and this and this.' And well, you know Mia," Rodriguez said laughing.

Encantada is located at 904 Valencia and open Tuesday through Sunday 12 to 6, Friday and Saturday 12 to 8. Call (415) 642-3939.

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Rachel Ambrose is a New Englander getting in touch with her roots. Photo by v e miller

Home Remedies: hard wood values from New England craftsmen

by vmiller

When Rachel Ambrose took her first look at what was eventually to become Home Remedies, it was not an experience that generated much optimism. "It was a miracle that I could even see the potential," she said. The former "Ray's Market" had been abandoned by its last proprietor in an "as was" state. Perishable food items such as milk and cheese had been left to die a slow death on the shelves and the store was boarded up for six months. But Ambrose, a ten-year Mission resident and one time Ray's Market customer was determined to follow in the family tradition of shaking off the corporate shackles and setting up her own business. Twenty year ago her father, in a moment of individualistic epiphany, bailed from the multinational rat race at the Coming Glass Works and moved the family to Lisbon Maine where he bought the Bradco Chair Company, a unique hard wood handmade furniture concern.

Bradco's hallmark is creating just the right combination of style for the home and toughness for institutional use. Homes throughout the country have Bradco chairs and tables but so do libraries, bars and the roughest customers of all, college dining rooms.

When Ambrose first moved to San Francisco, like many people, she became skyscraper fodder working in one unrewarding downtown job after another. Then, the family rebellious gene became dominant and she decided to try to make it on her own as Bradco's West Coast sales rep.

Ambrose decided to open her own business when Bay Area furniture stores were less than enthusiastic about the way down east basic values of simplicity and durability. As a renter with no money or collateral this represented quite a challenge. Fortunately, she was able to hook up with the Mission Economic Development Association, whose senior business consultant Elayna Contreras who was able to make what Ambrose calls "the scratchings that made up my business plan, look professional enough for the Small Business Association.

The next step was securing the decrepit and odiferous Ray's Market from one Vince Telfini whose family had built the place and operated the market before the Ray debacle. The place was in such horrific condition that Telfini let it go at a

reasonable rent (if there is such a thing these days) in exchange for Ambrose taking over the formidable renovations. In February, after 2 months of grueling refurbishing, Home Remedies became a reality.

Rachel Ambrose has a straightforward New England philosophy about what she's selling. "People can either buy cheap crap and buy cheap crap again in six months, or they can buy from me once in a lifetime. We sell beautiful long lasting functional furniture. It's not inexpensive but in the long run it's economical."

The continuous armchair with a cherry seat and bow and ash spindles and legs goes for \$340. There's not a metal part in it. This chair and other Bradco products are made employing traditional joinery practices such as the use of wedged splines, mortise and tenon joints and chucked leg assemblies, all explained in great detail on the company's web site at www.bradcochair.com. This piece of furniture will probably last long enough for some future owner to say, "My grandparents got that when they first were married."

Everything at Home Remedies, including the sofas that come from LA, reflects solid New England workmanship and values. A solid cherry table 36" by 60" sells for \$700, with a stain resistant polyurethane finish it will probably look just as beautiful in 30 years as it does today. Any dents and blemishes that do accrue over the decades will serve as an anecdotal family chronicle - "That scratch there is where Uncle Elmo dropped the electric carving knife, after too many spiked egg nogs way back in the winter of '08."

There's an underlying optimism that permeates this furniture, which says your life is not necessarily going to be spent among garage sale detritus. Besides furniture, Home Remedies also offers stuffed fabric animal heads and faux buffalo and bear skin rugs from Humane Trophies in Vermont. Rounding out the new England product line are wooden weave work baskets from the Ashwood Basket Company in New Hampshire which come, amazingly enough, with lifetime guarantees.

Home Remedies is located at 1026 Valencia and open Tuesday to Friday 12 to 7, Saturday 11 to 6 and Sunday 12 to 5. Call (415) 626-2026 or fax (415) 826-2080.

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Q: A friend told me that Dolores Park used to be a Jewish cemetery. Is this true? Now I feel as if I'm desecrating a special site when I walk my dog there. - E.M., SF

A: Your friend is right E.M., but don't get dogged out. Dolores Park was a cemetery - actually two Jewish cemeteries and no, it is no longer a cemetery. Home of Peace/Nevai and Hills of Eternity/Gibbath Olom, established in 1860, and 1861 respectively. Both cemeteries were closed in 1888 and moved to Colma. Many San Francisco cemeteries were moved at the turn of the century and today there are only two existing cemeteries within the City, at Mission Dolores and at the Presidio.

How we found the answer to your question:

LL Step #1: Starting with the Mission Branch resources (of course) we consulted the San Francisco Public Library online catalog and checked these subject headings: San Francisco (Calif.)-History, Dewey Decimal # 979.461, San Francisco (Calif.)-Guidebooks (DD# 917.9461) and Jews-California-San Francisco (DD# 296.079). Unfortunately none of the many books on these subjects at the Mission Branch answered our questions.

LL Step #2: Then we remembered the great book by Gladys Hansen, SFPL's former City Archivist: *San Francisco Almanac, Everything You Want to Know About Everyone's Favorite City*. Under Churches and Cemeteries we found what we were looking for.

Check out the SFPL History Room: hop on Bart and you're at the Main Library in 20 minutes (just 2 stops away). The City Archivist has three folders on San Francisco cemeteries and a book: *City of Souls, San Francisco's Necropolis at Colma* by Michael Svanevik and Shirley Burgett (San Francisco: Custom & Limited Editions, 1995).

Articles in the folders date as far back as copies of a *San Francisco Alta* newspaper article published July 27, 1860. These

articles describe the cemeteries and one article includes a photo of Hills of Eternity from the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley.

Dig Deeper: For more information on the two congregations you can check out the Mission Branch's copy of *Our City, the Jews of San Francisco* by Irena Narell (San Diego: Howell-North Books, 1981). You can also check out John W. Blackett's website. Mr. Blackett has culled most of his data from the History Center collection.

Kids, win prizes and have fun reading! SFPL's summer reading program "Thrills and Chills" starts June 5 and runs until August 7. All you need to do is check out books you like and read them! Come to the Library and sign up, we'll show you how to keep track of your books.

Special Programs for Kids this June: Mexican Festivals Program with Yolanda Garfias Woo, Saturday June 12 at 11 am.

Puppet Show by Trip Trap Troupe, Thursday, June 17 at 10 am and 11 am.

Mask Making Workshop, Friday, June 18 at 2 pm.

T-Bone the Clown comes to the library, Thursday, June 24 at 2 pm.

And One just for Teens! Make a Friendship Bracelet, Wednesday, June 16 at 3 pm.

Ongoing: Saturday Storytimes, in English (11 am) and Spanish (12 noon).

Remember - it's the Public Library so it's all freeeee!!! Call (415) 695-5090 for more information.

Next month we'll tackle some practical concerns and check out some new titles on the shelf.

Library Lady writes from the Mission Branch Library. She's happy to answer your questions. Write to Library Lady, c/o New Mission News, 777 Valencia St., 94110. You can also email Library Lady at librarylady@sfpl.lib.ca.us

Will success spoil the Devil-Ettes?



The Devil-Ettes: dance deconstructors and demon dames of da Mission. Photo by Jeremy Harris

by vmiller

The Devil-Ettes, a Mission spawned synchronized dance team is headed for fun, fame and fortune in Las Vegas this Halloween as part of the Las Vegas Grind - Beat goes Burlesque extravaganza. The 18 woman troupe, formed just six months ago, has already carved out a reputation here in the City with their own special rendition of when-cheerleaders-go-bad precision dancing. The Vegas gig and perhaps stardom loom in the future (Then again the Elvis Syndrome - rapid weight gain coupled with an obsessive need to take drugs and discharge firearms, is also a possibility.)

When synchronized dancing comes to mind at all it conjures up images of the Rockettes or clone expressioned Busby Berkeley bathing beauties merging their bodies into one pulsating geometrical pattern after another. The Devil-Ettes on the other hand are not about to be gorpped in such a fashion. They have, ala the Spice Girls, each adopted a Devil-Ette name and persona such as the Temptress, the Boozer ("Gets all lickered up so she can shake a leg," according to the Issue #1 of the Official Devil-Ettes Program) and the Heartbreaker.

The Devil-Ette concept, there is one most of the time, is to blend Berkeley's smarmy acrobatedness, with noir dame sultriness, and a dash of punk rocker sass then shake it all well. Any number of Mission clubbers and art event hoppers will tell you the Devil-Ettes have got the last part down. It's your inevitable pomo deconstructionist attack - but with lots of leg - on the last of the unpunked up of the fine arts. Or maybe something a lot simpler. "The thing about us is we're all amateurs taking up the types of dance we find interesting and just kind of made up things from there. I don't know if there is a name for it," said Devil-Ette spokeswoman Babydoe. The "Cheerleader" said the Devil-Ette style owes a lot to strong female personae from the movies especially Rita Hayworth in "Gilda" and Ann Margaret in "Viva Las Vegas"

Of course, there are already, Devil-Ette groupies following them, for the usual impure motives, from club to club. There is also a Devil-Ette website located at

www.babydoe.net and an in-progress, feature length video "mocumentary" that will chronicle the Devil-Ette's rise to the top which they define as the Donnie and Marie Show or fall to oblivion.

According to Babydoe, a.k.a. the Enforcer, the group first appeared in embryonic form at last December's Radio Valencia talent show for employees. Those with talent showed it; those without became Devil-Ettes, then known as the Ho Ho Ho's. A performance in January with Virginia Dare, under the name The Virginia Daredevils convinced at least some in the group that they had potential, but that they needed at least 12 bodies on stage for the desired impact. Recruiting 18 members guaranteed the requisite dozen dancers, at least six being sure to be MIA at any one time due to life's fin de siecle uncertainties.

All the hard core Devil-Ettes have hashslinging and bartending experience at Mission hipster hot spots such as Bugaloo, Radio Valencia and Casanova's. But the expanded act now includes an accountant, a secretary, a graphic designer and a dominatrix - women coming from lots of different places but all seeking a better life through the transcendent experience of collective booty shakin'.

But the road to Vegas cannot be paved with good gyrations alone, the Devil-Ettes need cash for costumes, travel expenses and liquor. Three events in June will help them along the way. On Saturday and Sunday June 6 & 7, at a sidewalk sale from 10-3 at 23rd and Valencia, you can meet the Devil-Ettes and buy their clothes! On the following week they perform with Mr. Lucky as part of Chicken John's Lost Vegas (that Vegas theme again) happening at the Cell at 2050 Bryant. This event also features Sub-genius marriages and the infamous Stinky's Peepshow. On Monday June 28th the Devil-Ettes give everyone who has bad prom memories the opportunity to implant some fresh good ones at Devil-Ette Prom Party held at Cafe du Nord at 2170 Market.

For information on becoming a Devil-Ette yourself or booking them for your next show you can reach them at babydoe@babydoe.net or write to the Devil-Ettes, 2215-R Market Street #177 SF, Ca 94114.

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There's only one Chile Lindo

by vmiller

Four years ago Paula Tejada and Dennis Maxwell were selling sandwiches door to door. Today they own the biggest Chilean Restaurant in San Francisco and are the recipients of the 1999 Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Award for Best Business of the Year.

While it's true they are also San Francisco's only Chilean Restaurant that takes nothing away from the fact that Chile Lindo is one of those cultural delights to be found only in the Mission. With four stool counter seating inside and two outdoor tables, it has an international larger than life ambiance plus the charm of real intimacy conveyed by the two overworked but forever buoyant and chatty proprietors.

Paula however sees the 25-year, three-owner reign of Chile Lindo as a product of divine providence, and given the odds against any business keeping it's soul at 16th and Capp for a quarter of a century, she may be on to something. *Pan amasado*, the hand kneaded bread, may be a more reasonable explanation for the vitality of Chile Lindo than hand of God.

Not just the bread but all the food in general demonstrates Maxwell and Tejada's real devotion to providing an authentic Chilean dining experience. It's not a big menu but everything on it is the real thing. The place is usually full of Chileans, which is a good sign. According to Paula, (who is Chilean by way of the, Lower East Side of New York City while her husband Dennis comes direct from Santiago), Chileans are notoriously picky eaters. No matter how Chilean the food, it better be good and it better be hearty fare.

At Chile Lindo you get all of the above.

The mainstay of the menu are three varieties of steak sandwich all priced at a reasonable \$5.50. There's the Churrasco, with tomato, avocado, mayonnaise and pebre (mild Chilean hot sauce); the Chacarero, which has string beans rather than avocado, and the Barros Luco which have melted cheese instead of either avocado or string beans. It really doesn't matter since they're more than willing to switch things around, but then you would be forgoing authentic Chilean cuisine. The best combo is the Barros Luco with avocado, its the perfect midday meal for San Francisco - light enough so you won't feel all groggy on hot days but substantial enough to warm you up on cold ones. The seasonings are blended just right so as to compliment but not smother the taste of the meat and the bread as previously mentioned would be worth the price of admission, if there was one.

The Chilean hot dog (\$2.50) is referred to as the Italiano because the ingredients, tomato, avocado, pebre and mayonnaise make up the colors of the Italian flag. (You better get one quick before right-wing Italian legislators get that constitutional amendment passed.)

Chilean empanadas (\$3.50) have been the backbone of Chile Lindo's catering business for years. They are a good deal more of main course than their Mexican counterparts, and contain beef, olive, onions, raisins, sliced hard boiled eggs and cumin and are great items for parties and receptions. The Chilean sweet tooth is indulged by an array of pastries, the heritage of a large number of German immigrants. In this tradition, Chile Lindo makes elaborate specialty cakes to order, including Selva Negra (Black Forest) and Mil

Hojas (Thousand Layer Cake), all prepared with chantilly cream.

Paula and Dennis take tremendous pride in the operation of a one of a kind business in providing a highly personalized touch in an increasingly Starbucked market. "This type of business is disappearing," says Paula and she's right. Four years ago, Dennis and Paula convinced Chile Lindo's previous owner to let them buy the business on the installment plan, while Paula secured a loan and some business management training through ALAS, the Latina version of Women's Initiative for Self Employment.

They got by, improved and finally established themselves as a local landmark, hence the well and hard earned Business of the Year Award. In today's cut throat big bucks world of San Francisco eateries of trendy food, forced atmosphere, snooty servers and bank account breaking prices the success of a place like Chile Lindo does seem almost miraculous. But I still think it's the bread.

Chile Lindo is located at 2944 16th Street (Between Mission and South Van Ness). Hours are Tuesday to Thursday 9:00am to 6:00pm, Friday 9:00am to 10pm and Saturday for Chilean Lunch 11:30am to 5:00pm. Call (415) 621-6108.



Paula Tejada and Dennis Maxwell holding the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 1999 Business of the Year Award. Photo by v e miller



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Skin ok in May, not in June

Editor,

At Bay2Breakers, 16 May 99, I walked nude across San Francisco, from downtown to the seacoast, carrying my rainbow flag on a pole topped by a sign reading: "July 4, Baker Beach".

Reactions ranged from neutral to humorous to positive. Many clothed strangers asked to be photographed with me (participant #21581) and my nude companion.

No SF police objected to our public nakedness, or to that of many more nude and semi-nude participants. (See SF Examiner, 17 May)

Yet before SF's 1998 Pride celebrations, these police invented a policy against nudity in the Market Street parade - and even against the areolas of womyn leaving non-females free to expose areolas. They did this on their own, without legal authority (since SF's anti-nudity law applies only to parks, NOT to streets). Dyke March organizers openly rejected the anti-areola aspect of this policy.

Now, anticipating another "Prude" parade on the last Sunday of June, I ask SF Mayor Willie Brown: "If your police department can tolerate naked persons, and topless womyn, at the (mainly-straight) Bay2Breakers, then why does SFPD try to censor the same exposure at the (mainly-queer) LGBT Pride Parade? Why does The City, through its military power, discriminate against lavender communities?"

Why do we have less freedom in June than in May?

Readers are invited to share their views with San Francisco's Mayor [Willie_Brown@ci.sf.ca.us]; with a copy to the SF Police Chief [SFPDchf@ix.net.com.com]; and one to me, please: nudelder@pacbell.net [POB 426937-SUN, SF, CA 94142-6937].

Tortuga Bi LIBERTY,

Senior Unlimited Nudes (SUN),

Oops, smite thee Satan anyway!

Editor,

We were thrilled that you used a photo from Clarion Alley to illustrate the Mural Awareness article, but unfortunately it was misattributed. The painting of the foetal superhero is NOT by Rigo, but by, um, me, Aaron Noble. It is a detail from a larger work in progress on which Rigo & I are collaborating, so the mistake is understandable. Though I do suspect the hand of Silicon Satan in this.

best, Aaron

Response to Pete Glikstern

Editor,

My friends and I got a big bang out of Pete Glikstern's response to "Taco Hell."

Hey, Pete your letter was by turns hostile, bombastic, accusatory, pseudo-psychoanalytical, and a model of misinformation and bad advice.

But it was mostly pointless rhetoric because I was describing a workplace experience, and it happens to be against the law to toss around cultural stereotypes in that setting. Two of the staff spoke to me in a silly "Speedy Gonzalez" style, and the manager himself would say, "Hey, we don't talk that way around here..." when I spoke Spanish to a co-worker. That's disrespectful and culturally backward and not

Letters to the Editor

a joke. The manager was all dismayed because I attacked an assumed and apparently cherished cultural privilege. Like you, he can't take it. Your response shows that, rather than shed light on the subject you want to beat me down. You desire passivity on my part in the face of assaults on my personal dignity, self-esteem and cultural pride. You are one lost child.

I guess what really got your goat, although your comments tippy-toe all around it, was my reference to white male behavior. White males wouldn't by any chance have been your role models when you came here as an immigrant, would they?

You ought to be clued in, dude; you're living in a racially dysfunctional society. My grandparents taught me that one should always respect other cultures. For a long time I didn't understand being dissed as a Chicano, so I hit my history books and discovered the terrible truth: a lot of racism was institutionalized, and still is. In contrast you appear to have internalized your harassment and have become the spitting image of your tormentors. That's why they were able to have a good laugh with you about it later, because they won, you fool.

Antonio Perales Fierro

Soap box bullies

Editor,

The San Francisco Illegal Soapbox Racing Society (an entirely fictional organization) kicked off the 1999 season on Mother's Day at Bernal Heights Park. A dozen or so racers showed up, some with clever new craft they'd constructed over the winter. Perhaps 50 or so fans in all were relaxing and socializing and enjoying the balmy weather along the course.

Two or three runs had been made by midafternoon, to the delight of all. Then word filtered down from the top: the cops are here. Of course, all us working-class scenesters know the drill, which is, time to stop having fun, and leave.

Apparently THREE police cars showed up, and one was said to be towing one of those radar "your speed is..." devices, which seemed a tad bizarre. So if you were in the Ingleside, Bernal Heights, or South Mission that day and were being raped, robbed, or run over by MUNI, now you know why the SFPD took so long to get there.

So here's my beef. This crowd of adults has been running soapboxes down that hill, about nine days out of the year, since the early 90's, although I imagine local kids have been doing it since Alfalfa's day. Generally it's been a very wholesome, mellow scene, except when MTV somehow found out about it and it was briefly a national phenomenon. The media frenzy is over, however, and it's just no big deal anymore. Nevertheless, the SFPD insists on sending several cars into that little cul-de-sac on the majority-of Derby days.

Apparently the SFPD seldom, if ever, show up on their own initiative, but rather in response to complaints from neighbors. The scuttlebutt yesterday was that some lady walking her dog had complained. Of course there were plenty of other locals

there walking their dogs, seemingly content to share the turf with people involved in other, non-dog-walking activities.

So does the SFPD need to respond to these inevitable complaints? Absolutely! After all, it's not the dispatcher's job to decide which caller is an idiot who should be ignored. Does the SFPD need to send several squad cars, and sometimes a paddy wagon, to survey the situation? Absolutely not!

ONE officer could go up there, a motorcycle officer perhaps, see that there are no underage kids drinking (as most of the people are in their 30's, or their little kids), there are no bonfires or people running around naked, say "Be sure and pick up your trash!", and leave. Or stay and watch the Derby. We don't discriminate, really!

Yes, I am complaining, about the needless, ongoing hassle, and the waste of SFPD resources, over and over and over again. Perhaps it is only a small matter in the larger drama which is life in the City That Knows How. But as small as it is, it's a quality of life issue. Now, add it to all the other issues, such as: the relentless Condo Cleansing of our neighborhoods and industrial areas by Willie Brown and his fatcat developer cronies, the (resulting) skyrocketing rents and plummeting supply of affordable housing and loss of jobs and entertainment venues, and hassles with bums and dope dealers and yuppies and brainless drivers... Well, it's becoming difficult to argue with the increasing number of people that tell me they want to move out of San Francisco.

Gary X. Indiana

The loft world

Editor,

The full-page ad from the Residential Builders ("It wasn't broken, but they fixed it anyway") seemed like the usual complaint from developers that they haven't been able to build as much as they'd like, in this case "live-work" lofts.

These "live-work" lofts are not doing anything to solve the housing crisis. They are expensive studio apartments, suitable only for rich individuals or couples. With their high loft ceilings, they use the land at very low, practically suburban densities. The city needs multi-bedroom apartments at higher densities, not one-room boxes.

The ad's frequent references to events that happened 21 years ago were puzzling. The stuff about 1978 is a smoke screen. More to the point, in 1999 the City Planning Department has identified 13,000 to 27,000 existing blue-collar jobs that are threatened by the encroachment of residential development in industrial areas.

These industries are not like the "big cargo freighters [that] never came back to the waterfront," which the ad referred to. These are local print shops, auto body repair shops, garment factories, parts distributors, and more. These small businesses are essential to the city's economy. They require close and timely access downtown. And they employ San Franciscans at a much higher rate than the downtown corporations. We need to keep these good jobs in the city.

Building residential lofts willy-nilly on industrial land is poor planning. What the ad doesn't mention is that the builders are also buying and tearing down viable industrial buildings, as well as buying vacant lots. Either way, development puts enormous pressure on these businesses.

Fortunately, the Planning Commission voted in April to create real industrial protection areas. Numerous neighborhood groups and small businesses, through the Coalition for Jobs, Arts and Housing, lobbied hard for these stricter controls.

Now we need the Board of Supervisors to impose a moratorium on projects that are "in the pipeline."

Sincerely yours, Christopher Mohr
Coalition for Jobs, Arts and Housing
(& SoMa resident)



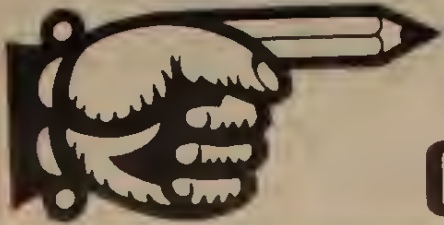
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Poems of the Month

edited by **Lisa Gonzales**

Social Skills

My world revolves around me,
While yours seems to revolve around you
Billions of worlds, apparently
Share this same segment of space/time

Moving in slightly eccentric orbits,
Clashing and crashing,
With finely tuned misjudgment,
Like a school of drunken fish.

But still, would you like to go out with
me sometime?

- David Spero © 1999

Dream Awakening

Through my window where
I see the sun's birth
becoming a red cieling
mango manila
running through street lights
red in color
beautiful awakening

spears of yellow rays
after the dream of freedom obtained
where las cacachas die
in deep swamps

later the elephants of your destiny
disappear
they meet new friends
and birth new frontiers

in green oceans
they hear songs
sweet and tender corals of children who
speak other languages
then multiply the human race
giving birth to the principles
of a new hope

Maravilloso Amanecer

Atraves de mi ventana donde
se mira el sol nacer
poniendose el cielo rojo
mango maila
seguido por calles de luz
color de oro
bonito amanecer

lanzas de rayos amarillos
despues del sueño de la libertad lograda
donde mueran las carcachas
en pantanos profundos

luego se depiden
los elefantes a su destino
se encuentran nuevos amigos
y nacen nuevas fronteras
en oceanos verdes se escuchan cantos
coros dulces carinosos
de niños de otros lenguas

entonces se multiplica
la raza humana y nacen
los principios
de la nueva esperanza

- Culebra © 1997 Poema Postumo
translated by La Huerfana

Miracle Mile Makers

MISSION MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION



With the opening of **Back and Body Work**, Wendy Richardson brings her 18 years of experience as a licensed physical therapist to the Mission District. Richardson, a graduate of Boston University, offers a full range of care for back, neck, wrist and other injuries.

But Richardson's specialty is on-site ergonomic workplace evaluations, to identify and correct postural and repetitive motion causes of pain and injury. In today's computer dominated world this is especially important and the cost, starting at \$85, is certainly reasonable. Richardson has enjoyed great success in this area, working with both sole proprietorships and larger concerns such as Sirius Communications.

Back and Body Work is located at 3004 16th Street #303. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Phone (415) 626-3099.



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Mortho & Brothers is located at 2475 Mission Street and open 6:30 am to 7 pm Monday to Saturday, and 7am to 7 pm on Sundays.

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Juana Alicia

Recycling in San Francisco

By Debby Dunn, Public Outreach Coordinator SF Recycling Program

Recycling paper

Q: What types of paper can be recycled?

A: Residents can recycle most types of paper. Mail and Envelopes (windows OK), computer and office paper (staples OK), and colored paper. Dry food boxes (e.g., cereal boxes, soda/beer packs, egg cartons), and Paper bags and packaging. Catalogs and magazines, Phone books, Newspapers, and Cardboard (flattened & broken down to no larger than 3' x 2').

Some businesses can recycle the same materials. The only types of papers that are currently not recyclable are coated paper (e.g., food packaging, drink boxes or cups that are plastic, wax or foil coated), and Tissue paper (e.g., napkins, paper towels, toilet paper).

Residents with curbside recycling can put all their paper in a paper bag and set it next to their blue bin on their recycling day. Apartment residents can take all their paper and place it in their building's large gray recycling container marked "Paper Only".

Junk mail

Q: How can I reduce the amount of unwanted advertising (junk mail) that I receive?

A: There are several ways to reduce the amount of unwanted advertising addressed to your home and office:

#1: Write to Mail Preference Service Send your name (with all variations of spelling) and address to the address below, and state that you do not

want to receive unsolicited mailings. This will take your name off many mailing lists for five years. Direct Marketing Association, Mail Preference Service PO Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008.

#2: Credit Card Solicitations (Even my cat has received one of these!) A 1999 Federal law enables consumers to remove their names from the lists that credit-reporting agencies provide to credit card issuers. Call the following toll free number to request that your name be removed from these mailing lists: 1-888-5-OPT-OUT (1-888- 567-8688).

#3: Mail Order Catalogs Call the customer service number on the catalog or use the postage paid envelopes or cards and ask to be removed from their mailing list. When ordering from catalog companies, request that your name not be given or sold to other companies.

#4: Warranty Cards You should consider not filling out warranty cards. They are used solely to gather names for mailing lists since you're covered by the manufacturer's warranty whether the card is returned or not.

#5: Prevent Junk Mail Before it Starts When placing catalog or Internet orders, making charitable contributions, or subscribing magazines, request that your name be placed on an "in-house" listing only. This helps insure that you will be contacted only by that company or organization, and that your name will not be sold or traded to anyone else.

After reducing your junk mail, remember that whatever you still receive can be recycled in San Francisco's recycling program (see question above for more information).

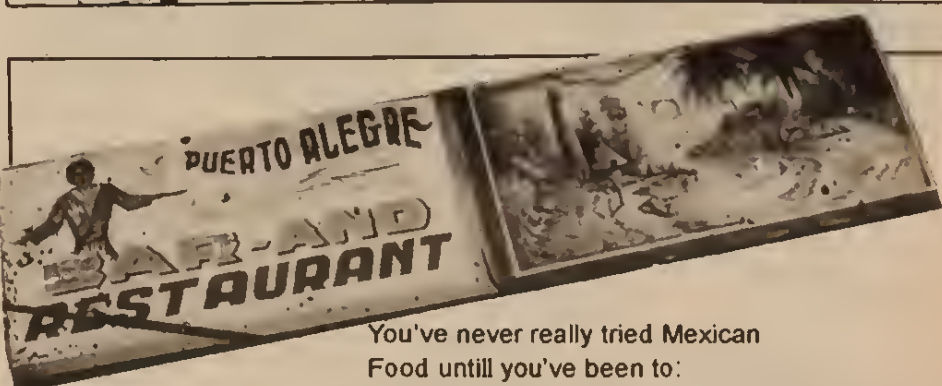
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Round World Music Review

Robert Leaver



Shri Durga & Ban Rra Rra

For more than ten years now DJ Cheb Sabbah has been spinning his unique and sophisticated mix of African, Arabic, Asian and other world music Tuesdays at Nicki's in the lower Haight. Throughout the years he has produced and presented many memorable live shows including Chaba Fadela & Chaba Zahouania from Algeria, Hassan Hakmoun from Morocco, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan from Pakistan, and legendary jazz trumpeter Don Cherry, whom he also managed.

Now he has his own CD release titled *Shri Durga* on the Six Degrees label. He has created rhythm tracks with layers of traditional instrumentation and dance beats over which he recorded some of the finest and most famous Indian musicians and singers for an exquisitely unique fusion. His musical alchemy defies categorization but will surely interest aficionados of Indian music, trance music, and other worldly musical realms. Aside from its peerless musical terrain, the sound mix is one that works as a high volume trance/dance experience or as an ambient aural cocktail. You can buy his CD at Amoeba Records on upper Haight Street, or at other reputable stores and he's still at Nicki's on lower Haight Tuesdays.

Coming in June are two much anticipated Cuban CD releases. The second *Buena Vista Social Club* presents Ibrahim Ferrer, was also produced by Ry Cooder and features his guitar playing along with many of the aged and veteran Cuban musicians who graced the first recording. They run through a selection of older classic Cuban "sones" and "boteros" and what it lacks in tempo is compensated for with texture. One can feel the tropical heat and humidity as the elder master musicians work through these standards.

Also, World Circuit Records, through the Elektra corporation, will reissue a double CD of the Cuban Estrellas de Areito titled *Los Heroes*. Areito was the Cuban State recording company that brought together all the top Cuban musicians in the early eighties to record large ensemble jam sessions of Cuban standards. Some of the artists featured on *Buena Vista Social Club* appear along with members of Orquesta Aragon, Los Van Van, Felix Chapottin, Tata Guines, and most notably the pianist

and arranger, Ruben Gonzalez. For my money these are the greatest "descarga" (jam session) recordings ever and certainly stand out as a unique moment in post-Revolution Cuba.

Don't miss is the feature film engagement at the Kabuki Cinema in San Francisco beginning June 4th of Wim Wender's documentary on the Buena Vista Social Club. The film includes live footage from the historic Carnegie Hall show in New York City and from Europe as well as footage from the recording session. It has received much critical acclaim.

Appearing live at Yoshi's jazz club in Oakland will be the virtuoso Cuban flautist and arranger Maraca who should have a top-notch band mixing Cuban son and jazz. While over in Berkeley at La Peña on June 12th at 8 pm, there will be a rare performance by a group from Guantanamo, Cuba called Ban Rra Rra who play the Haitian derived "tumba francesa" as well as the true "conga." Thursdays at the Elbo Room continue with DJ BabaLoup and Los Compas on the 3rd, Asabache on the 17th and a special CD release party for Jesus Diaz & QBA on Friday June 25th. Call for (415) 255-8411 for more information.

This column has devoted much space to Cuban music over the years and though I don't wish to limit coverage of other music quite frankly there is little "world" music that peaks my interest these days. Moreover we appear to be at an historic moment where Cuba is suddenly on the map again. After years of cultural and political boycott Cuba has captured the imagination of the world with its rich musical legacy.

How long the interest will last and whether political change can follow cultural developments are serious questions. But at least we have access to Cuban music as never before. There is a constant stream of Cuban musicians coming into the U.S. and almost every minute of recorded music from the island has been brought to light. My biggest fear is that cultural strip mining has flooded the marketplace with too many products and the business sharks and culture vultures have already ravished the body of this rich culture. I hope time proves otherwise. ¡Que Viva La Musica!

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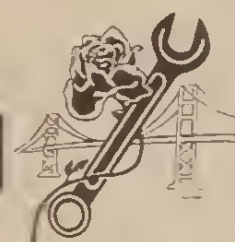
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